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Feb. 16. 82

My dear General:-

You spoke to me about Indian work at Standing Rock Agency as something you thought might be carried on to good advantage in connection with the Indian work at Hampton. I had a letter yesterday from Rev. Thos. L. Riggs, dated Standing Rock Feb 7.; he speaks well of Agent McLaughlin: says there are now about 5500 Indians there; has placed there an Indian preacher whom he took up with him: & thinks there is a field which ought to be occupied.

Now, will you write to me what you would like to undertake, at Standing Rock or some similar place: what kind of an arrangement seems to you practicable & likely to yield good results? I should like to know definitely what is in your mind. Perhaps it may be found that such a plan as you would like would fall in with the views of the Prudential Committee; & in a manner agreeable & helpful to all concerned. Something might be done to make still more effective efforts for the Christian civilisation of the Sioux.

I wish again to thank you for the hospitalities I received at Hampton, & for the gratification I had in seeing & hearing what is going forward so nobly there.

Very truly yours,

J. O. Means

Genl S. C. Armstrong.
Normal Institute.
Hampton. Va.

Feb. 17 82

Rev. A. L. Riggs. Santee Agency.

[illegible] receive a letter dated Dec. 24. 1881 [illegible] questions [illegible] that letter [illegible] may not have [illegible] the letter did not reach you.

Can you give from your records the names of the Indian teachers who have graduated from the [illegible] & state how long each one was under instruction, & how & where since employed? Also, the names of Indian ministers, pastors & licentiates, who have graduated at the Theol Dept or have had Theol training at Santee, & how long each was under instruction & where now employed?

Also, up to what date did the Presb. Board pay for its students at Santee, & at what rate? How many of these students were at Santee in 1880-1881; & has anything been done toward payment for them?

These questions, at greater length, were in the letter of Dec. 24. If you have that

Feb. 17 82

Rev. A. L. Riggs. Santee Agency.

My dear brother.

Did you receive a letter dated Dec. 24, 1881? I have been waiting for information on points on which inquiries were made in that letter, & as none has come, have been afraid the letter did not reach you.

Can you give from your record the names of the Indian teachers who have graduated from the Normal Dept, & state how long each one was under instruction, & how & where since employed? Also, the names of Indian Ministers, pastors & licentiates, who have graduated at the Theol. Dept, or have had Theol. training at Santee, & how long each was under instruction & where now employed?

Also, up to what date did the Presb. Board pay for its students at Santee, & at what rate? How many of these students were at Santee in 1880-1881; & has anything been done toward payment for them?

These questions, at greater length, were in the letter of Dec. 24. If you have that

Feb. 20 82

Genl S. C. Armstrong,
Hampton Va

[illegible] from you [illegible] statements [illegible] & also are [illegible] Rock. [illegible] The [illegible]'s letter. [illegible] to keep the [illegible] to you.

"I like [illegible]" as you say you do. The point on which I wish to work now, & for which I specially write to you was, to know what exactly your plan or wish was with regard to Standing Rock. I gathered from my talk with you at Hampton that you were planning something special, in connection with Hampton, at Standing Rock or a similar agency: that you thought work in a different way from that you are now doing, & to a greater extent, might be done by your having some cooperative branch, some school or similar institution, in the Indian Country.

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letter, please recon & it & let me hear from you at the earliest moment possible.

It's necessary at once to communicate with the Presbyterian Board about this last matter. The Pnd. Com. directed it to be done long ago: I have been waiting to hear from you.

I hope you read my letter of Feb. 1.

With best wishes.

Very truly yours.

J. O. Means.

Feb. 20 82

Genl. S. C. Armstrong.
Normal Institute. Hampton Va

My dear General:

I thank you for your letter of the 8th. inst recd, with the statements about the Indians who have been & also are at Hampton from Standing Rock. I keep those statements, & return Mr Riggs's letter, as I suppose you intend me to keep the former.

"I like working to a point," as you say you do. The point to which I wish to work now, & for which I specially wrote to you was, to know what exactly your plan or wish was with regard to Standing Rock. I gathered from my talk with you at Hampton that you were planning something special, in connection with Hampton, at Standing Rock or a similar agency: that you thought work in a different way from that you are now doing, & to a greater extent, might be done by you having some cooperative branch, some school or similar institution, in the Indian Country.

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This is what I should like to know about.
Have you any such plan in mind?
what is it?

Dr Riggs writes to us about as he does to you about Standing Rock. If suitable men can be found, I have no doubt but our Prud. Com. will put them in there. Whether our work there or elsewhere shall have any specific relation to yours at Hampton, depends upon what specific arrangement you are contemplating.

Please write again & more fully.

Very truly yours,
J. O. Means.

My dear brother. I thank [illegible]

[illegible] Dr Riggs [illegible] & I wish you would [illegible] them in one time. — It seems proper to quote a few sentences from Dr Riggs's letter of July 5, which led to the whole correspondence. He wrote "more than two years ago I was visited by a gentleman connected with the Bureau of Ethnology in Washington, & since that time a correspondence has been carried on which has resulted in this engagement." The "Companion volume" is to contain chapters on Dakota History, Family life & customs &c also myths & stories... S. R. Riggs will furnish a

Feb. 25 82

Rev. Joseph Ward. — Yankton. Dak.

My dear brother. — I thank you for your letter of Feb. 15. & for your frank statement that the "treatment of Dr Riggs by myself & the Committee has been so presented to you" as to "make" you "feel that he had not received the consideration due to his age & his long service."

It is not necessary that you see Dr Riggs letters to us, as it is our communications to him which are supposed to be not what would be expected. I have had our three letters to Dr Riggs copied — they are all there are — & I wish you would read them & return them in due time. — It seems proper to quote a few sentences from Dr Riggs's letter of July 5, which led to the whole correspondence. He wrote "More than two years ago I was visited by a gentleman connected with the Bureau of Ethnology in Washington, & since that time a correspondence has been carried on which has resulted in this engagement." The "companion volume is to contain chapters on Dakota History, Family life & customs, etc. also Myths & Stories. ... T. L. Riggs will furnish a

Chapter on Buffalo hunting. C. L. Hall contributes Folk Lore of the Rees & Gros Ventres. & [illegible] Riggs a chapter on Dakota Songs." —

With this single explanation, the three letters will be intelligible to you, I am sure.

We do not know what "other differences between the Prud. Com. & the various members of the Indian Mission" there are. In the erection & furnishing of buildings at Santee, after grants have been made, according to the estimates furnished to complete the buildings, new grants have been asked for the same buildings. The estimates have been overrun & afterwards the buildings have been represented as not yet completed. The Finance Com. asked for the building accounts, to know how far the work was completed. They supposed that of course, receipts were taken & filed for the expenditure of so many thousand dollars. Here in Boston not ten cents are expended without a voucher, which is examined by auditors. The same is the case in any mission. It was unaccountable to the Finance Com. that their inquiries should be thought strange at Santee or have caused friction.

Very truly yours,
J. O. Means.

Feb. 25, 82.

Rev. Thomas L. Riggs,
Ft. Sully, D.T.

My dear brother:

Your letter of Feb. 18th has just reached me. Your letter from Standing Rock came in due time, and I answered it to you directing to Fort Sully. Your letters are both very interesting and full of instruction. They give us the facts we want to know. The letter written from Standing Rock will appear, in large part, in the next Missionary Herald. I am glad that you are looking into matters so carefully and will be able to give, therefore, such an intelligent judgment as to what it is desirable to do at Standing Rock.

I have written to you before of the intention of the Committee to send some of their number to visit the Indian stations. At the meeting this week Rev. J. A. Worcester, so long connected with the Board and thoroughly acquainted with all matters relating to our Indian work especially, and C.C. Burr, Esq. of the Committee were designated to visit the stations in connection with myself. Mr. Worcester, you know, is of about the same age as your father and therefore I want to arrange so that the journey shall be as little inconvenient to him as possible. Please give me some suggestions in regard to the best way of accomplishing our object. How would the weather and travelling answer about the middle of April? We wish to go to Berthold, Ft. Sully, Sisseton and Santee. Would it be well to strike first for Bismarck, go by stage up to Berthold and so downward, or will it be better to go to Santee and Sisseton first? Is it practicable, without taking too much time, to take a steamer from Berthold to come down the river stopping thus possibly at Standing Rock — though this has not formed a part of our plan — and so down to Sully and then by rail to Santee? Please give me whatever suggestions occur to you with regard to the most convenient way of visiting the several stations which I have indicated.

With best wishes,

Very truly yours, J. O. Means.

Feb. 24, 25, 82.

Rev. Jos. Ward:

My Dear Bro.

Your favor of 22nd is at hand for which accept my thanks. You need never hesitate to write to any one of us [illegible] without thought at any time on our Indian work or any matter kindred thereunto. For we have great faith in you personally as the connecting link of which mention has been made before.

Dr Means is planning to have the Com. go — as soon as possible — for a friendly visit — & we have no doubt that good will come from it all round. We are quite sure that you will help in that direction. The Christian conference of good men, all alike interested in the same work, cannot fail to be accompanied with the Divine blessing. We hoped to have seen you when you were East on your sad errand. May all consolations be upon you & yours! Yrs. very frat'y E. K. Alden

Feb. 25, 82.

Mr. M. R. Morris,
Sisiton Agency, Dak.

My dear brother:

Your letter of Feb. 13th has just arrived. It probably crossed a letter of mine to Mrs. Morris dated Feb. 9th. That letter gives you the information you ask for in your present communication, namely, that the Committee have consented, under the circumstances, to add $100. to the appropriation for school expenses at Sisiton this year. Please let me know in case that letter to Mrs. Morris was not received, and I will give you other particulars.

As has been stated in previous letters, the Prudential Committee propose to send a sub-Committee to visit the Dakota mission as soon as practicable. Rev. Isaac R. Worcester and C. C. Burr, Esq. of the Committee are to go with me on this visit. We should prefer, of course, in view of Mr. Worcester's health to take the pleasant season of the year for the visit. We should prefer to go in May or early June

March 2 82

but possibly it will be better for seeing the schools and other purposes if we go earlier. How will the middle of April answer? What is the most direct and easy way of reaching Sisseton? Is there any way of going to Sisseton across from Ft. Sully or from Santee? Is there any way of going from Sisseton to Bismarck without returning by rail on our track?

With best wishes,

Very truly yours,

J. O. Means.

March 2 '82

Rev. Thos. L. Riggs.
Secy of the Dakota Mission, &c. &c.
Ft Sully.

My dear brother:

Your letter of Feb. 27, calling attention to various matters on which you seem to desire explanation, is just received. At the close of the letter you say:- "We do not conceal the fact, however much to be regretted, of our present estrangement from, & lack of confidence in, the recent management of the Mission." Certainly, so far as concerns the Presb. Com. & officials of the Board, nothing which christian men ought to do, in order to remove occasions for estrangement shall be left undone.

I thank you for speaking frankly of what you specify, & if there are any other matters which disquiet you, should be glad to have you name them.

I need not say that "the recent management of the Mission" & the management always, has been with no other thought & purpose than that of promoting the highest efficiency of the work.

1. Further explanation seems desired with respect to "representation of the Mission at the annual meetings of the Board".

It seems to us that the closer union & f'ship between the individual members of the Mission Churches & the Board ~~[illegible]~~ must come from the influence of the missionaries in the field. The native Churches formed under the guidance of the missionaries are, as is said, all Presbyterian, except the two smallest ones recently formed. They are thus organically connected with the Presb. General Assembly, report to that assembly & are represented in it. The Prud. Com. has left this matter to the missionaries. Now that Cong'l Churches are forming, the natural result will be for the members of these Churches to be connected with Congregational associations & the national Council. I do not see how the Board could pay the expenses of members of these Mission Churches in order to secure their attendance at the annual meetings. It is not done for members of any other Churches in any other mission or elsewhere.

In 1873 it was desired for special reasons to have some Indian preachers present at the meeting at Minneapolis of an appointment [illegible] was made, as one is made for the speaker of the Annual Sermon. It was purely exceptional & the single exception was for the Dakota Mission.

Any one is at liberty to lay the matter before the Annual Meeting, of inviting regularly members of Dakota Churches to attend the meeting at the expense of the Board. We do not think it would receive approval & could not recommend it. It is not in the power of the Com. to make such an arrangement without a vote of the Board itself. At any rate, a vote to this effect would be needed.

As to the attendance of the Missionaries, you ask: "Have not members of your Mission been made to feel that their presence was not specially needed or even desired — unless invited. And this not once but in several instances?" — How members of the Mission may have felt of course we cannot say. We can only say, so far as is known, we have never been conscious of any treatment of members of your Mission, & have never intentionally treated them, in any other way than Christian gentlemen generally wish to be treated. It is true, as you question, that any member of your Mission is as free & has as

~~[illegible] of course, that the request [illegible] by [illegible] to be made [illegible] a missionary [illegible]~~ full an invitation to be present as any body else." The travelling expenses of such are not to be paid, & cannot be. They stand in this respect with other corporate & honorary members & attendants. When the Com. wish to see for some purpose some member of the mission, & request his attendance at the annual meeting to save time & expense for all concerned, then of course the expenses of the missionary so invited are properly paid.

We cannot recall an instance in which missionaries have been called from their fields of labor to attend the annual meetings of the Board. If there have been such cases, they have been rare exceptions & a special urgency must have existed. Missionaries are in this country, because of broken down health, or because of the sickness of members of their families. Pressing necessity has caused missionaries to be here. Being here, they naturally speak about their mission, & if practicable, manage to attend the annual meetings. In some rare instances when it was necessary that the Com.s at the annual meeting should consult with these missionaries in the country, they have been asked to attend at the expense of the Board. This is exceptional. One of our oldest missionaries, just arrived in the country, who had never attended an annual meeting, I asked ~~[illegible]~~ to have invited at our expense to go to St. Louis. The Prud. Com. did not feel justified in doing so, & declined to do it. I simply name this to indicate what the usage has been & is.

I find that, as matter of fact, while our mission is one of the smallest in numbers, more of its members in proportion have been present, & present more frequently, than is true of any other mission. In 1873, there were 12 missionaries at the annual meeting, from 6 out of the 19 missions; 8 of the 12 were from Dakota. In 1874, 10 missionaries from 6 missions were present; none from Dakota. In 1875, 16 missionaries from 9 missions; 3 of the 16 from Dakota. In 1876, 11 missionaries from 8 missions were present; none from Dakota. In 1877, 11 missionaries from 8 missions were present; one of them from Dakota. In 1878, 7 missionaries from 4 missions were present; 3 of the 7 from Dakota. In 1879, 3 missionaries were present from 2 missions; none from Dakota. In 1880, 9 missionaries from 6 missions were present; none from Dakota. In 1881. 15 missionaries from 13 missions were present; one from Dakota. It appears that during these years, each year 11 out of 15 ordained missionaries have attended the annual meeting: & that one out of 4 ordained missionaries of the Dakota mission had been present. It also appears that on the average, each ordained missionary attends an annual meeting once in 14 years: & that Rev. Dr S. R. R. has been present at three annual meetings in this time, Rev. A. L. R. five times, & Rev. T. L. R. three times.

I have taken pains to make these statements simply that you may be sure that certainly there has been no intentional slight of the Dakota Mission in this particular.

2. As to the appropriation for incidental expenses of the school at Sisseton; $100. additional has been granted, making the total incidental expenses $250. — But you know of course that the chief work & chief expenditure at Sisseton is for the school. Deducting the salary &c. of Dr Riggs & of the native pastor &c. all the remainder is the expense of the school. The report for last year, sent by.

gave us these statistics: "In Oct. 1880, 7 scholars were enrolled, the average was 5. In Nov., 26 were enrolled, average was 10. In Dec. 26 were enrolled, average 21. In Jany 1881. Feb. & March, about the same. In April, May & June 30 were enrolled, the average was 15." "Of these some have staid but a short time & a larger number than usual are day scholars." This shows a total enrolment during the year of [illegible] 30. an average enrolment of 25. & an average attendance 16. "Many of them day scholars". On this report the appropriation was made. For running this school there was asked in the estimates $1950. It would seem, in the opinion of the Com., that their original appropriation of $1350 was enough for this showing of the attendance. They now make it $1450. –

You probably had mislaid your memoranda of the annual meeting of the mission when you wrote, "No appropriation of $1800 or $2000 for Home for Girls was asked for in estimates, as your letter implies". In the copy of the minutes of the meeting signed by you Sept. 24. 1881. & forwarded to us is this sentence. "The Home for girls proposed for Sisseton Agency according to estimates presented from W. K. Morris – to accommodate twelve girls

3

at cost entire of $1800, voted advisable & the project approved. The Mission deem the amount named entirely inadequate however; it should be increased at least to $2000." You forwarded also the Mission's estimate & plan endorsed: "Plan for Home for girls at Sisseton Agency. Measure app[illegible] by Dak. Mission — am't estimated cost inadequate. T. L. Riggs, Clerk."

3. You ask about "one or two striking omissions in the appropriations for Santee." The omission was in the estimates: no request was made for a grant for a Steward's services. Rev. A. L. Riggs has since made the request, & at once $550. was granted for this service. The grant was made Jan'y 24.

As to Miss Shepard, you think "her long & faithful services deserve more worthy recognition from the Board than ~~her long & faithful ser~~ ~~vice~~ the jot & tittle worships of the law has given."

Your brother wrote that Miss Shepard needed leave of absence & asked the Committee [illegible] We replied that "Miss Shepard has not been under appointment by the Presb. Com. but under engagement by you. It is not necessary therefore for the Committee to act with regard to her leaving: You can arrange it as you judge expedient. As to what she ought to receive for expenses &c., of course what is proper will be granted." I asked him to advance to her such a sum as she needed immediately, & let me know. "also please give me her present address & I will write her & see what more should be done". This moment as I write a letter from your brother gives me the first information I have received as to the amount he advanced to Miss Shepard, but no other information about her. I think you will see that we are doing all we can do in this matter.

4. "Mr Hall & I" - you write "Can have no real home unless for the mission work. To expect & to require of a young man that he should provide a home for young women, the wife being no longer with him, is a crime. And ignorance of the difficulties in the way on the part of men tried in the management of affairs is equally criminal. --- God judges & punishes. He punishes Missionary Boards as well as individuals for wrong doing." This is said in view of the fact that the item in the Fort Valley ~~[illegible]~~. "assistance in view of an associate [illegible]. [illegible]"

"a man & wife — not necessarily a clergyman — as a home nucleus — was not granted by the Prud. Com.

The two lady teachers at Ft Sully make their own arrangements as to boarding & keeping house — where, with whom, & how. The Com. of course never required nor asked you to provide a home for them. They came largely by your wish & desire, & they ▽ you made ~~such~~ arrangements for living together as were mutually agreeable ~~[illegible]~~. The Com. have not had a word to say about it. The death of your wife made a change in all this. You know how sorely we have have sympathized with you in your terrible bereavement. We have appreciated your embarrassment & have done our utmost to relieve you. We have tried, & are still trying, to secure a suitable missionary family to join you. You yourself have not been able to name one nor have we. Because there might be further delay, in order to relieve you the Prud. Com. proposed & urged that you exchange stations with your brother. This was not acceptable. Dr Clark at St. Louis, as I think I wrote to you, asked your brother Alfred to go to Ft Sully & make a home for

you. both of you laboring there. This was declined.
You know that as soon as a suitable man can be found as missionary, an appropriation will be made to meet the expense. That has been stated already. The Com. do not appropriate salary for any one who is not & may not be appointed. At Fort Berthold. Mr Hall's position cannot be pleasant. I have written to him & endeavored to relieve him. He has been looking, in correspondence with us, for a suitable housekeeper. We have put him in communication with some, but as yet no suitable person has been found. We are trying to secure another missionary family.

Instead of being at Fort Sully, you might be at Santee, & would be if the judgment & wishes of the Prud. Com. were carried out. Instead of being alone at Ft Sully, your brother Alfred & his family might be with you there. The Com. would have made needful arrangements for Santee.

In saying this I do not desire to intimate that we are not in very tender sympathy with you in your desolate home. I am sure you will not imagine this. I only wish to remind you of some of the efforts made by us to help you in the very direction in which you cry for help.

This is a very long letter. If there are other matters about which it is possible you are under misapprehension of the action & attitude of the Committee, it will be a great favor to have them plainly & fully stated. As I said at the beginning, the Com. wish that so far as they are concerned there shall be no occasion of estrangement.

With best wishes & many prayers for the Mission & the Fort Sully Station & for you personally,

Very Sincerely Yours,
J. O. Means.

P.S. In your letter to Mr Ward of Feb 18, you write: "One would, however, suppose that in common candor Dr Means might have informed me of the striking out of the item "Stewardess 500", when discussing with me matters & my matter last summer". I took it for granted your brother A. L. R. to whom I wrote so fully of the Mission had informed you of it. I had no thought otherwise. How could I suppose you had not been duly notified?

J. O. M.

March 10 82

Rev. A. L. Riggs. Santee Agency.

My dear brother.

Your letters of Feb. 24th & 27th have both reached me. I thank you for the information & hope very soon to receive what you speak of writing in addition.

The question of payment proper to be made by the Presbyterian Board cannot be a difficult one to arrange. The field, as you say, is Presbyterian. It seems desirable that there should be but one school for training ministers & Teachers, & that is established at Santee. It is clearly desirable that all suitable pupils be encouraged to come from the whole field. It seems as clear that the school being for the scholars of both Boards should be supported by both Boards. The equitable thing would seem to be, ascertain the expense of the school & let each Board contribute in proportion to the number of pupils from its several stations. We can either take the whole number, or the average number, as you suggest, from each station. If payment is made on the average number, then of course the average expense of each scholar is to be ascertained. In this case, the total cost of the school is to be divided also by the average number during the year. This will make it, the expense of each scholar greater than if the expense be divided by the total number of scholars. According to the last year's Catalogue, the total number of scholars only is given. Dividing expenses by this number gives between $90. & $100. as the cost per pupil last year. 13 scholars are reported from Presb. Stations. Now if the average number was less than 13, of course the average number of scholars must have been less than 88, & the cost to each average scholar would exceed $100. It seems only equitable that the actual cost should be shared by each Board. Our Board would doubtless do well to have the Presb. Board manage the school, meet all expenses, & charge us the average cost per scholar. I do not see any parallel to our asking pay of the Presb. Bd and bringing in a bill against the Episcopal Board for the education of those now working in their service". If there has an arrangement for the Episcopalians to have no School, but to have their teachers & preachers educated at our training School, they would of course expect to pay the due proportion of cost.

I have been waiting to know, as I ~~long ago~~ requested to know, ~~[illegible]~~ what was advanced to Miss Shepard, & this shall be attended to as soon as I can communicate with her ~~[illegible]~~

As to Jonny Eastman, you have probably forgotten ~~that~~ you wrote no letter about him, or what ~~[illegible]~~ you had advanced. We heard from Dr Humphrey he was coming: he came with no letter, & did not know who paid his expenses, or how much was paid: said you gave him some money, & that Dr Humphrey assisted him. We have been waiting for a statement to make the necessary application to the Schl. Commission. Please give us an account of what has been expended for this purpose.

I thank you for the Photographs. they are fine.

The matter of overdraft by Rev. T. L. R., in respect to the estimate for Stewart in 1881, will be considered & adjusted properly by the Com. when they visit Fort Sully. Meanwhile he draws for the current year his grants without regard to this overdraft. It was supposed of course that he was informed that the estimate was not granted. He was asked questions by me on points not clear; not about points which the Prud. Com. declined to grant. It was stated that an appropriation would be made when the Com. appointed a steward. No name was sent & of course no appointment was made & no grant. As to the suspended estimate of $300. for travelling expenses to schools, subsequently granted after he answered inquiries, I wrote him as Special Com., & the letter book contains a copy of a letter to you dated March 16. 1887, informing you [illegible] of the Mission that the suspended estimate of $300. was granted. As I have said, the Com. this week voted to have the Sub-Com. when they go to Ft Sully arrange things equitably. As soon as the time can be definitely fixed for this visit, I will write you. Mr Worcester had arranged to be one of the Sub-Com. with Mr Burr. Mr Worcester has just been stricken with congestive paralysis – that I think it is called – & of course cannot go. The Lord keep you all in health & strength. Very truly J. O. Means.

March 16 82

Rev. Thos L. Riggs. Fort Sully.

My dear brother.

In your letter of Nov. 28 you did say that you might accept the position of Inspector of Indian Schools, if one was to be appointed. But I thought you dropped the remark casually & simply wished it might be known here. I said nothing because I did not understand that there was any movement now. Then also, it might look as though we did not want you where you are.

As to the position, or office, I hope there will be some such office created. Whether it will come under the Indian Department, or under the Educational Bureau, I think is uncertain. Some at Washington wished it in one & some in another Department; & this difference of judgment, I have been afraid, will interfere with the creation of the office. They talked at Washington upon a reorganization of these departments & redistribution of duties. Whenever created, it is my impression that there will be a scramble for the appointment & that it will be given, not to the man who is best fitted for it but to the one who can secure most influence. I don't think you care to be mixed in a scramble, & as your friend, I certainly should not like to have you.   If you are offered the position, & are disposed to take it, I have no doubt you can do a most useful work & one greatly needing to be done. Frankly, however, I do not think it so important as the larger work—larger it seems to me—you are now doing. I should regret to have you leave your present work. I hope you will not. But I know there are preferences of individuals & circumstances, on account of which each Christian must feel perfectly free to decide, as to his duty, between himself & his Lord. So, if you are asked, & think you ought to accept such a service, I shall only wish you God speed, though very sorry you leave the Mission.

The matter of overdraft for the Stewardship at Ft. Sully, as probably Mr Shaw has written is left to be arranged & adjusted by the Committee when it visits Ft Sully: you meanwhile drawing upon Mr Shaw without reference to this overdraft.

With best wishes, Very truly yours. J. O. Means

March 1882

Rev. Joseph Ward.

Yankton. Dak.

My dear brother.—

As I intimated to you sometime since, the Pru'd. Com. are sending a Sub-committee to visit our Dakota Mission. Rev. I. R. Worcester, C.C. Burr, Esq., & myself, were constituted this Sub-Com. Mr Worcester has just had an alarming illness, congestive apoplexy, it is called, & cannot go on this service. At the meeting on the 11th inst. Rev. Dr A. C. Thompson was requested to take Mr Worcester's place, & I have strong hopes that he will go. If he goes, Mrs Thompson will probably accompany him, which will be a great advantage also. The Pru'd. Com. also voted to invite you to give us the assistance of your presence & counsel & observation & experience, as far as practicable & convenient to you, if not in our visit to all ~~the~~ stations, at least in our visit to Santee & Sisseton. We should be glad to have you with us at all ~~the~~ stations, but thought possibly you might not be able to go also to Ft Sully & to

Fort Berthold.

You are thoroughly acquainted with the Indian questions in general & with our work in particular. We were proposing to make this formal request to you, as soon as we arranged definitely our going. A letter from Rev. Thos L. Riggs just received is strong in expressing ~~the~~ wish that you may accompany us — ~~[illegible]~~ Out of regard to him, perhaps you may be willing to go to Ft Sully also. — It has been difficult to fix upon the time of our departure. We had arranged to leave here April 1st: may now not be able to get away till the 11th of Ap. If we take Santee first, we sh'd thus reach Santee May 8th or 15th or 22d. If we sh'd take Santee last, it would probably be a month later. I will inform you as soon as the definite time & route is arranged, & if by varying it we can secure your company, we shall be glad to do so. I write now that you may know our wishes & hopes, & may say 'yes' if possible.

Very sincerely yours.

J. O. Means.

March 17 82

Miss Martha A. Shepard
[illegible] N.H.

My dear Miss Shepard.. When you were here there was so much haste that I did not say all I wished to say: & perhaps you did [illegible] of being here again [illegible] here? A Sub-Committee [illegible] visit Dakota in April [illegible] probably either the [illegible] might have some [illegible] you may suggest [illegible] your Family & expenses [illegible] wrote me & I asked him to do. I wish to [illegible] him. What was the amount? [illegible] would you like to have me [illegible] Com. to grant for you for the period when you are likely to be away? How much, I mean, in addition to what has been advanced. Please let me know, & it shall be attended to at once. I sh'd like to hear by next Tuesday morning.

How is your health this winter, & when do you feel as though you would like to resume work at Santee? Very truly yrs. J. O. Means.

March 17 82

Hon. H. Price.
Com. of Indian Affairs.
&c &c
Washington. D.C.

Sir:

Will you please have forwarded to my address as above a copy of the report for 1881? I desire it for use of a Committee which is about to visit our Indian Mission Stations in Dakota.

Respectfully yrs.
J. O. Means.
Secy Am. Board.

March 17 82

Miss Martha A. Shepard
Smytheville. N.H.

My dear Miss Shepard.. When you were here there was so much haste that I did not say all I wished to say: & perhaps you did not. You spoke of being here again. When do you expect to be here? A Sub-Com. of the Prud. Com. will visit Dakota in April. We shall leave here probably either the 4th the 11th or the 18th. You might have some suggestions to make before we go.

Mr Riggs advanced money for your travelling expenses &c. as he wrote me & I asked him to do. I wish to restore the amount to him. What was the amount? How much would you like to have me ask the Prudential Com. to grant for you for the period when you are likely to be away? How much, I mean in addition to what has been advanced. Please let me know, & it shall be attended to at once. I sh'd like to hear by next Tuesday morning.

How is your health this winter, & when do you feel as though you would like to resume work at Santee? Very truly yrs. J. O. Means

March 25. 82.

Miss Eda L. Ward,
Ft. Berthold, Dak.

My dear Miss Ward:

I thank you for your letter of March 18th, and am very much interested in statements you make. A sub-Committee of our Prudential Committee will visit you at Fort Berthold in April or May, then we shall have an opportunity to talk over all these matters of common interest. Inasmuch as you may wish to be making your preparations in advance for the summer, I will only say that in answer to your question whether you might spend next July and August with your father and sister in Appleton, Wis, that I presume there would be no objection at all. The only point would be as to the travelling expences. What would they amount to? Or should you wish a special grant for them? If the other members of your station think that you can be spared, there would certainly be no objection from Boston to your going.

Please remember me kindly to Mrs. Pike and to Mr. Hall.

Very truly yours, J. O. Means

March 25. 82.

Rev. A. L. Riggs,
Santee Agency,

My dear brother:

In your letter of Feb. 24th rec'd March 2nd you stated the amount which you had advanced to Miss Shepard, as I had suggested to you, $96.68. The Prudential Committee made a grant on the meeting of the 21st inst. for this and for Miss Shepard's expenses while she is away, and the amount is put to your credit by Mr. Ward so that you can draw for it at any time. I wait with much interest your proposed replies to the other questions I have asked. The definite time of departure of our Committee to visit the Indian missions is not yet fixed. As soon as it is I will write you.

With best wishes,

Very truly yours,
J. O. Means

March 27 82.

Mr. Jno. G. Rollins,
Santee Agency, Neb.

My dear brother:

Your letter of March 18th reached me the 25th. I am very sorry to learn what you say about your health. I hope the hemorrhage was not very serious and that you are already getting back again your old strength. The spring of the year is very trying to almost everybody. Any lurking disease is more apt to show itself at that time than at other times, and I hope as the months go on and the genial warmth of summer approaches you will find yourself in better health. I am very grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Riggs for receiving you back into their own family and giving you such care as one with a capricious appetite needs. Certainly your health is of primary importance. You can do no work there or elsewhere with a broken down body. How soon does the school term end? You speak of hoping to be able to wait until the school closes. You know, of course, that some of us are expecting to visit you at Santee [illegible] I am [illegible] we shall leave here [illegible] or [illegible] will talk together at Santee [illegible] surroundings and what may [illegible]

Very truly yours, J. O. Means

March 27. 82.

Mr. Jas. C. Robbins,
Santee Agency, Neb.

My dear brother:

Your letter of March 18th reached me the 25th. I am very sorry to learn what you say about your health. I hope the hemorrhage was not very serious and that you are already getting back again your old strength. The spring of the year is very trying to almost everybody. Any lurking disease is more apt to show itself at that time than at other times, and I hope as the months go on and the genial warmth of summer approaches you will find yourself in better health. I am very grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Riggs for receiving you back into their own family and giving you such care as one with a capricious appetite needs. Certainly your health is of primary importance. You can do no work there or elsewhere with a broken down body. How soon does the school term end? You speak of hoping to be able to wait until the school closes. You know, of course, that some of us are expecting to visit you at Santee shortly. I am inclined to think we shall leave here the 19th or 20th of April, and we will talk together at Santee about your health and surroundings and what may seem best for your future labor.

I write now to acknowledge your letter and to say to you that you are not forgotten by your friends here. Our sympathies are very strong for you, and our prayers are very earnest that the Lord may give you health and strength for a great work among the Indians.

Very truly yours,
J. O. Means

Gen. Armstrong is now here and sends his regards to you.

30 March 82

March 27. 2.

Rev. A. L. Riggs,
Santee Agency. Neb.

Dear Sir: We want much to preserve in the Library of the A. B. C. F. M. complete files of the "Iapi Oaye" and we have all the nos. so far, except that for July 1880. How this comes to be wanting I cannot tell.—

Please if you can send me a copy by mail as soon as may be — I want to get them bound.

Very truly yours
Calvin H. Chapin

Hon. William W. Rice M. C.

Sir —

[illegible] letter from [illegible] former missionary of [illegible] Cherokees.

His claim for [illegible] during the rebellion is [illegible] Congress [illegible] has been [illegible] for [illegible] the claim is most just, there can be no question.

The good man suffered much and under circumstances [illegible] claim upon the government which failed to protect him. I trust and believe that the action of your Committee will favor the tardy justice which is due to him in his age and need.

Yours very truly
Henry A. Hazen.

30 March, 82

Hon. William W. Rice M.C.

Dear Sir—

I bespeak your favorable consideration, of the enclosed letter from Rev. Worcester Willey, a former missionary of this Board to the Cherokees. His claim for losses, during the rebellion is now before Congress, and has been, I am informed, referred to you for examination and report. That the claim is most just, there can be no question. The good man suffered much, and under circumstances giving him special claim upon the government which failed to protect him. I trust and believe that the action of your Committee will favor the speedy justice which is due to him in his age and need.

Yours very truly

Henry A. Hazen.

March 31st 82.

Rev. Thomas L. Riggs,
Ft. Sully, Dak.

My dear brother:

Your letter of March 23rd at Standing Rock was received on the 30th. You certainly have had a rough time of it in getting up with your little boy. I hope he will not suffer serious injury from his exposure.

I write now specially to say that the arrangements are so far completed that our visiting Committee propose to leave Boston April 18, to go first to Santee and from there probably to Ft. Sully. We shall reach Santee the 22nd, I suppose. How soon we shall get to Ft. Sully I cannot say. We may be able to write to you again before that time. The Committee consists of Rev. Dr. A. C. Thompson, who is to be accompanied by Mrs. Thompson — she is a member of our Woman's Board — C. C. Burr Esq. and myself. Mr. Ward of Yankton has promised to accompany us to Santee, and probably to Sully, perhaps also to Sisiton.

I write at once as soon as we were

able to say when we should leave Boston, and shall write to you again when we can reckon more specifically the time of our probable arrival at Ft. Sully.

Very truly yours
J. O. Means

March 31. 82.

Rev. Stephen R. Riggs,
Care Capt. Pratt, Barracks, Carlisle, Pa.

My dear brother:

Arrangements have at last been completed for a visiting Committee from our Prudential Committee to go into Dakota and visit our mission stations. The Committee consists of Rev. Dr. A. C. Thompson, who will be accompanied by Mrs. Thompson, C. C. Burr, Esq. and myself. We expect to leave Boston April 18th and, so far as we can now tell, shall go first to Santee. We are to be joined by Rev. Joseph Ward who has consented to accompany the Committee certainly to some, and possibly to all, of the stations. From Santee we shall probably go to Fort Sully, then to Sisseton and last of all to Berthold. This is the arrangement so far as we can make it at present. If on reaching Chicago, or on reaching Santee, it seems better to follow some other method, we shall do so. In this uncertainty, it is impossible to say precisely when we shall be at Sisseton. I

March 31. 82.

Rev. Stephen R. Riggs,
Care Capt. Pratt, Barracks, Carlisle, Pa.

My dear brother:

Arrangements have at last been completed for a visiting Committee from our Prudential Committee to go into Dakota and visit our mission stations. The Committee consists of Rev. Dr. A. C. Thompson, who will be accompanied by Mrs. Thompson, C. C. Burr, Esq. and myself. We expect to leave Boston April 18th and, so far as we can now tell, shall go first to Santee. We are to be joined by Rev. Joseph Ward who has consented to accompany the Committee certainly to some, and possibly to all, of the stations. From Santee we shall probably go to Fort Sully, then to Sisseton and last of all to Berthold. This is the arrangement so far as we can make it at present. If on reaching Chicago, or on reaching Santee, it seems better to follow some other method, we shall do so. In this uncertainty, it is impossible to say precisely when we shall be at Sisseton. I am sorry that I cannot give any more definite statements as to when we shall be there. We cannot, of course, ask you to take pains to be at Sisseton, but if you are to be in that neighborhood, of course we shall be very glad to see you. I am writing by the same mail to Mr. Morris and to the members of our mission at other stations.

Gen. Armstrong was here this week and gave some hope that Capt. Pratt with some of the Indians from Carlisle, might be in Boston next Sunday, or possibly the Sunday after. We should be very glad to have a visit from them and I think it would be very helpful to the common cause. Please give my special regards to Capt. Pratt and Mrs Pratt, whose hospitality I very much enjoyed while I was at Carlisle.

With kind regards to Mrs. Riggs,

Very truly yours,

J. O. Means.

March 31. 82.

Miss C. A. Pike,
Ft. Berthold, Dak.

My dear Miss Pike:

Your letter of March 15th was rec'd in due time, and the check for $5 a which you returned, Mr. Ward rec'd in order.

I congratulate you on your more quiet nerves and general improvement of health, of which you speak. It is gratifying that your new labor at home has proved so beneficial to you. That work is truly in the line of labor for souls, as truly as if you were engaged in teaching. As to how long before you had better undertake teaching again or what arrangements had better be made for the future, you may well leave to be decided hereafter. Mr. Hall will tell you of the arrangement made for a visitation of members of the Prudential Committee to Ft. Berthold. Mrs. Thompson, the wife of Rev. Dr. A. C. Thompson, is to be with us, and I count upon great help from her especially in understanding better your position and that of to the ladies who are doing similar work in Dakota. I suppose we shall not be able to reach Ft. Berthold until the middle of May. Mr. Hall, or some one of you, will hear from us again, when we can speak more definitely as to the time of our probably reaching Ft. Berthold. There are many who remember you in their prayers that the blessing of God may rest upon you in your physical condition and in your spiritual life.

Very truly yours,

J. O. Means

[illegible] Sissiton. March 21. 82.

[illegible] you know more [illegible] when we may be [illegible] already written to [illegible] members of our Committee [illegible] contemplation. Arrangements are [illegible] now that I can say that [illegible] expect to leave Boston [illegible] committee is constituted of Rev. Dr. A. C. Thompson, who will be accompanied by Mrs. Thompson, [illegible], Esq., and myself. Rev. Joseph Ward of Yankton also promises to go with us to Santee and probably to Fort Sully and perhaps to Sissiton. It will depend upon whether he can leave his parish so long. It is impossible now to say just when we shall reach Sissiton, as our movements will be governed by various things which cannot now be foreseen. I think we shall first go to Santee, reaching there probably about the 22nd of April, and from Santee it may be feasible to go up

March 31. 82.

Mr. Willis K. Morris,
Sisiton, Dak.

My dear brother:

I have already written to you that a visit from members of our Committee was in contemplation. Arrangements are so far perfected now that I can say that the visiting Committee expect to leave Boston April 10th. The Committee is constituted of Rev. Dr. A. C. Thompson, who will be accompanied by Mrs. Thompson, C. C. Burr, Esq., and myself. Rev. Joseph Ward of Yankton also promises to go with us to Santee and probably to Fort Sully and perhaps to Sisiton. It will depend upon whether he can leave his parish so long. It is impossible now to say just when we shall reach Sisiton, as our movements will be governed by various things which cannot now be foreseen. I think we shall first go to Santee, reaching there probably about the 22nd of April, and from Santee it may be feasible to go up to Fort Sully and thence to Sisseton. I shall endeavor in due time to let you know more particularly of the day when we may be able to reach Sisseton.

With best wishes to you all,

Very truly yours

J. O. Means.

March 31. 82.

Rev. Chas. Hall,
Ft. Berthold, Dak.

My dear brother:

It is possible to speak a little more definitely with regard to the visit of members of the Prudential Committee than when I last wrote you. The arrangement now is for Rev. Dr. Thompson, with Mrs. Thompson who is a member of the Womans Board, C. C. Burr, Esq. and myself to leave Boston April 18th, and, in every probability, go first to Santee; and after visiting Santee and Sully and Sisseton to go up to Berthold. On the whole, this seems the wiser arrangement. If we should go to Berthold first, we might find the travelling not as pleasant as at the close of our visit to Dakota.

Your letter of Feb. 10th was rec'd on the 20th and yours of March 11th was rec'd March 20th. I am very glad that you write so hopefully with regard to the condition of things, especially of household matters at the station. It is certainly great ground for hopefulness that matters have fallen into as quiet a condition as they have. We shall have opportunity to hear and see all about the condition of things among you, and shall be able to make suggestions more gen~~erably~~ intelligently as to what had better be arranged for the future. You know, or if you do not know I can but assure you, that every possible effort has been made at Boston to procure an additional family for the work at Berthold. We cannot obtain missionaries if, with all due efforts, none offer themselves, or will accept invitations which are given them for this work. There are now one or two hopeful cases, and from them I have great expectations that one family will be found serviceable for you and helpful to you at Ft. Berthold. There is a lady who is ready to go into the Indian work. She had been rather looked upon as the one to go to Sissiton, - Miss Thompson, expecting to leave at the close of this school year. After we have been at Sisiton and at Berthold, it may be found that an arrangement can be made for her to go to Berthold, if on the whole it seems desirable.

You say that you want to return from your salary at the rate of $200. per annum to cover the personal service rendered to you while the service continues. I do not think this had better be done. The question of your coming east in the fall to get your children can be decided hereafter, and, as you say, the money that you are proposing to have returned may be used for that purpose. Please let that question lie over for the present.

Please give my special regards to Miss Pike and Miss Ward, whose letters of Mch. 18th and 13th reached me Mch. 22nd. If you will be kind enough to read at least portions of this letter to the ladies, the portions referring to the proposed visitation of our Committee, it will save me writing specially to them about it, as I should otherwise do. May the Lord prosper you all abundantly in your work.

Very truly yours,

J. O. Means.

March 31. 82

Rev. A. L. Riggs
Santee Agency, Neb.

My dear brother:

Your letter of Mch. 25 was received yesterday. I thank you for the statistics you communicate. I wish you could give me information on one or two points. I wish you could give the names of the ten who have gone out and are now preaching, and the five catechists, and the twenty who are now teaching. Perhaps you are not able to do so. If not, no matter.

I began to write specially to say that the arrangements for the visiting Committee are so far perfected at last that we expect to leave Boston Tuesday evening April 18th, and shall probably reach Santee the Saturday succeeding, the 22nd. So far as we can see now, the best course appears to be to go first to Santee, then up to Sully, and take Berthold last of all. Rev. Joseph Ward of Yankton has consented to accompany the Committee at least to Santee, and

A letter from Mr. Robbins causes us a good deal of anxiety. He speaks of having had a hemorrhage from the lungs. ~~Proba-bly~~ I hope it is not very serious. Gen. Armstrong, who was in my room when the letter came, suggested that perhaps Mr. Robbins would do well to spend some time in Florida. His friends at Bristol, R. I. write that they want him to spend a vacation with them. A letter from your brother Thomas from Standing Rock of Mch. 23 was rec'd yesterday. He seems to have had a very rough time in getting up there - lost his horses at Grand River and was out all night in a fearful storm of snow and wind, without a tent, 25 miles away from any human dwelling. I hope that his little boy will not suffer from the exposure. Your brother seems to be very rugged in all such exposures. He writes with a good deal of hopefulness of the work which seems to be opening at Standing Rock.

The invitation from Mr. Williamson which you communicate, for the Committee to visit Yankton Agency we are grateful for, but shall not be able to reply definitely to his inviprobably to Sully and Sisiton. He is anxious that we should come through Yankton, but it will depend somewhat upon whether we can obtain half fare tickets by the road through Yankton, or whether in order to do this we must go directly to Springfield. Rev. Dr. A. C. Thompson and Mrs. Thompson and C. C. Burr, Esq. go with me from Boston. We think it a very great gain that Mrs. Thompson is arranging to be of the company. I am sure you will all enjoy her very much.

Miss Shepard came to Boston yesterday. I had learned her address in New Hampshire and invited her to come directly to my house at the Highlands, as she did, with little Anna. She and Anna are both pretty well. She is rather tired, I think. I am not sure but the care of Anna is too much for her. Today she was going to visit friends at Dorchester and Weymouth, and she proposes to be at Hartford next week or the week after. I expect to see her again before we leave Boston. She speaks as though she would be able to return and resume her work next autumn.

tation until we reach Santee. It will depend upon the time that may be at our disposal.

With best wishes to you all,

Very truly yours,

J. O. Means

Rev. Thos L. Riggs

Fort Sully, Dakota.

Hunkpapa Camp
Standing Rock (To be forwarded by mail)

Retain Indian Helper at Standingrock till Committee visit you.

J. O. Means

~~Night Message~~ ~~$1.05~~
$1.08

American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions,

1 Somerset Street, Boston, April 5th 1882.

Rev. Thos L. Riggs
Fort ~~Sully~~ Yates, Dakota.
Hunkpapa camp Standing Rock (To be forwarded by mail)

Retain Indian Helper at Standingrock till Committee visit you.

J. O. Means.

~~Night Message~~. ~~$1.05~~
$1.08

April 13 82.

Rev. Jos. Ward. Yankton.
Dakota.

My dear brother... Our Com. to visit the Indian Mission. Dr A.C. Thompson (Mrs T. with him) C.C. Burr Esq., & myself. Propose to leave here Tuesday evening the 18th inst. As you very kindly propose ~~that~~ we spend Sunday at Yankton, we think we ought to, under the circumstances, tho for certain reasons we shd like to be at Santee Sunday. But we shall more enjoy being at Yankton. Any service I can render I shall be most happy to render. We make no stop in Chicago & reach Yankton I suppose Saturday forenoon.

With many thanks & best wishes,
Very truly yours
J. O. Means.

April 13

Rev. A. L. Riggs
Santee Agency

My dear Brother

Our Com., Rev. Dr. A. C. Thompson (with Mrs. T.) & C. C. Burr, Esq. & expect to leave here Tuesday evening the 18th inst. Dr. [illegible] writes & urges us to spend Sunday at Yankton & we think tho we had intended to be at Santee Sunday that we had better accept the [illegible] time & decide to do so. We [illegible] to have a [illegible] meeting & perhaps it may be a good opportunity for one.

We shall go up from Yankton, I presume Monday.

[illegible] regards to the members of the mission.

[illegible] Means.

Miss Ruth A. Fazor,   April 15. 82.
Santee Agency, Neb.

My dear Miss Fazor:

Your letter of April 7 has just reached me. [illegible] As you know, I am expecting, with our Committee, to visit Santee immediately, and there [illegible] have opportunity of talking over with you the matters about which you speak in your letter. I thank you for speaking so fully and frankly about your position and what seems to you wise for the future. I understand from your letter that you do not think it would be desirable and expedient that you should return to Santee as the labor there can be performed by those who are already in the service. Of course it is very desirable not to have any greater force than is absolutely needed to accomplish the work. You have been there long enough to know what needs to be done, and I take your judgment as decisive on the matter, and according to your letter. I shall therefore suppose when you leave, you will leave without intending to return, and the Committee, I have no doubt will make arrangements, [illegible] necessary, that the service you [illegible] may be performed by some of the [illegible].

I add nothing [illegible]

April 15, 82.

Miss Ruth A. Faxon,
Santee Agency, Neb.

My dear Miss Faxon:

Your letter of April 7 has just reached me.

As you know, I am expecting, with our Committee, to visit Santee immediately, and there shall have opportunity of talking over with you the matters about which you speak in your letter. I thank you for speaking so fully and frankly about your position and what seems to you wise for the future. I understand from your letter that you do not think it would be desirable and expedient that you should return to Santee, as the labor there can be performed by those who are already in the service. Of course it is very desirable not to have any greater force than is absolutely needed to accomplish the work. You have been there long enough to know what needs to be done, and I take your judgment as decisive on the matter; and according to your letter. I shall therefore suppose when you leave, you will leave without intending to return, and the Committee, I have no doubt, will make arrangements at Santee to do whatever is necessary, that the service you have been rendering be performed by some of the ladies there.

I add nothing more now, except best wishes and many thanks for what you have already accomplished.

Our Committee leave here Tuesday evening. Mrs. Thompson, you know, is to be one of the Committee, and you will be very glad to see her, I am sure.

Respectfully and very truly yours,

May 8, 82.

Miss Susan Webb
Santee Agency, Neb.

Dear Miss Webb:

Your favor of May 30th has just come to hand. I am very glad indeed to hear from you and to know that the Bible Dictionary was so acceptable. I am specially glad of your testimony in regard to Mrs. Dr. Thompson and her valuable assistance to the deputation, and I was glad also to have this sketch of a day spent in visiting from house to house. You know I talked that up with you when here, and felt that work of the kind you have now sketched would be of the greatest value, - would make you truly missionaries carrying the gospel to the hearts and homes of the people. I trust better days are dawning upon you all.

I presume you received our new Manual for Women", and have in it some valuable suggestions.

With Christian regards and best wishes for your success and happiness,

Very sincerely yours,

N. G. Clark

May 8, 82.

Miss Susan Webb,
Santee Agency, Neb.

Dear Miss Webb:

Your favor of May 3rd has just come to hand. I am very glad indeed to hear from you and to know that the Bible Dictionary was so acceptable. I am specially glad of your testimony in regard to Mrs. Dr. Thompson and her valuable assistance to the deputation, and I was glad also to have this sketch of a day spent in visiting from house to house. You know I talked that up with you when here, and felt that work of the kind you have now sketched would be of the greatest value, - would make you truly missionaries carrying the gospel to the hearts and homes of the people. I trust better days are dawning upon you all.

I presume you received our "new Manual for Women", and have in it some valuable suggestions.

With Christian regards and best wishes for your success and happiness,

Very sincerely yours,
N. G. Clark

May 31 82.

Miss Eda L. Ward,
Ft. Berthold Dak.

My dear Miss Ward:

I have just written to Mr. Hall about our visit to Berthold. Please ask him to read the letter to you and to Miss Pike and consider that portions of the letter are intended for you and for Miss Pike. We have thought very much of you both and of your work and you will be more constantly in our prayers in the future than in the past.

At the meeting of the Prudential Committee yesterday I stated your request to be absent from Berthold to visit your friends during the summer. As I understood from you, it was to involve no additional appropriation from the Board, but ~~that~~ you would meet the expense from your salary or otherwise. I believe I was right in that. Your request was most cordially granted by the Committee. I hope you will have a pleasant visit and be greatly refreshed in body and soul, and able to return and take up your work again in due time with new vigor and hopefulness.

I think that we have a fair prospect of a pleasant family to join the mission company at Ft. Berthold. Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Case of Fairport, N. Y. are ready for the service. I think their offer of service will be accepted by the Committee. There is one, and only one, drawback,— they cannot leave their present work until after the first of January. It is not likely that we should succeed in finding anybody who would answer as well and who could enter upon the work any earlier. I am sorry that there must be this delay, but I think you will be cheered to have in prospect, even so soon as at that time, this addition to your force.

With best wishes for your personal prosperity,

Very truly yours,

J. O. Means.

May 31. 82.

Rev. Joseph Ward,
Yankton, Dak.

My dear Mr. Ward:

At the meeting of the Prudential Committee yesterday it was voted that the thanks of the Prudential Committee be presented to you for the very important services you rendered in connection with the Committee which has visited the Dakota mission.

We of the Committee appreciate most highly and are very grateful for your generous hospitality, and your wise counsels in the service to which we were called, with you. We only regretted that other duties of such great importance as those connected with the Yankton College, prevented your accompanying us to the other mission stations. From Santee we reached Ft. Sully, with a slight detention by not making connection at Kasota. We had a very pleasant visit at Peoria Bottom, went up to Ft. Sully, Cheyenne Agency and the villages on Cheyenne River. We reached Sisiton for the succeeding Sunday, but failed to reach Ft. Berthold the Sunday after. We had a pleasant visit at Ft. Berthold and stopping a few hours in Chicago, came home safely last week. I reached Boston Saturday, Dr. Thompson Friday, and Mr. Burr Thursday.

We had an informal talk at our Committee meeting yesterday, but other matters occupied us so that we did not reach the consideration of Mr. Steer's appointment. His offer of service will undoubtedly be accepted at once, and I hope he will prove the right man for the position.

I do not know whether I renewed the request that you would have some talk with Miss Brown. I hope you did so, or, if not, if you see her again that you will see just what her feelings and wishes are.

Please give my special regards to Mrs. Ward and your children. When you come this way we want you to come to our house, 81 Mt. Pleasant Ave. Boston Highlands.

With best wishes,

Very truly yours,

J. O. Means.

P. S. Rev. L. B. Voorhees, now of Weymouth, for several years, and until his health broke down, minister of the Old South, Worcester, was in my room just now, and would take an engagement to supply for six months such a pulpit as yours, if needed. Your brother Clark at Salem knows him well.

May 31. 82.

Rev. Charles L. Hall,
Ft. Berthold, Dak.

My dear brother:

Your letter dated May 19th reached Boston the 29th.

I thank you in behalf of our Committee for your kind expressions in regard to our visit at Ft. Berthold. We reciprocate most cordially all you say of satisfaction and enjoyment. We also appreciate fully what you say with regard to the great work which is pressing upon you. We appreciate it as we could not have done without visiting you and seeing how the work looks. We have borne you and shall continue to bear you in our prayers, and whatever can be done to forward the great work which the Lord seems committing to His people for the Ft. Berthold community, we wish to do.

On my way through New York I called at Fairport, a few miles this side of Rochester, and spent a day with Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Case. I spoke to you, I think, of Mr. Case, his being perhaps ready for Indian service. I will not write to you about him at present any farther, as his offer of service has not yet been acted upon by the Prudential Committee. I will only say that I was exceedingly pleased with Mr. and Mrs. Case. He is about 34 years of age, I should judge, - Mrs. Case a good deal younger. They have no children. He is now a clerk in a very important business. His business engagement is such that he cannot leave, he says, in honor, until the first of January. Mr. and Mrs. Case, I think, are well fitted for work at Ft. Berthold, and, from all representations of acquaintances of theirs, they will be most excellent, cordial, Christian people to work with. If it should be decided that they go to Ft. Berthold, I think you would find them most agreeable workers. Of this, however, we will write by and by. When you come East I want you to call and see them and have a full talk with them with regard to the work at Berthold. This I say now, and you will understand that it is said before any action has been taken by our Prudential Committee with regard to Mr. and Mrs. Case, and with regard to their going to Berthold if they be accepted for missionary service. They offer themselves for any missionary work to which they are fitted.

At the meeting of the Prudential Committee yesterday it was agreed that your request for a vacation to come East and visit your friends be granted, and it is granted. It was also agreed that Miss Ward, according to her request, be allowed a vacation, to visit her friends.

There is another matter that I want to say something about. A strong effort is on foot to remove Mr. Kauffman from the Agency. When we reached Bismark we found Inspector Gardner there. He had been spending a week, evidently [redacted] part of the time in most intimate consultations with Mr. Courtney. Mr. [redacted] said to a gentleman who repeated it to me that he should recommend the Indian Department to dismiss Mr. Kauffman. I was also told by another gentleman that Mr. Gardner had made the same statement to him. You will understand the whole matter. I propose to see or to write to Dr. Strieby, and I shall also write to Gen. Fiske. I have sent word to Gen. Charles Howard about the matter, and I hope that something effective may be done to prevent the success of Mr. Courtney's schemes.

Please give my most cordial regards to Miss Ward and Miss Pike. We think of you all with great affection and tenderness, and pray for the blessing of God upon you in your work.

Very truly yours,

J. O. Means.

May 31. 82.

[illegible] Morris

[illegible] Agency, Dak.

My Dear Mr. and Mrs. Morris:

I take the earliest opportunity possible after reaching Boston to let you know that the Visiting Committee after leaving Sisseton reached Ft. Berthold safely, had a pleasant visit with our friends there, and returned to this city last week. We come home, of course, somewhat wearied, but very thankful that we have been able to visit various stations of our Dakota mission and to be put in personal communication with the missionaries, and to see for ourselves the condition of the Indian work. We thank you for your hospitality, and the opportunities we had of seeing the condition of the station at Goodwill. Will you please present our cordial salutations to Major Cressey and his family and to Mr. Young and his family of the Government Boarding School.

Probably you have learned from Dr. Riggs before this that we had the pleasure of seeing him for a few moments at Morris, where we were

May 31. 82.

Mr. Wyllis K. Morris,
Sisseton Agency, Dak.

My dear Mr. and Mrs. Morris:

I take the earliest opportunity possible after reaching Boston to let you know that the Visiting Committee after leaving Sisseton reached Ft. Berthold safely, had a pleasant visit [illegible] our friends there, and returned to this city last week. We came home, of course, somewhat wearied, but very thankful that we have been able to visit various stations of our Dakota mission and to be put in personal communication with the missionaries, and to see for ourselves the condition of the Indian work. We thank you for your hospitality, and the opportunities we had of seeing the condition of the station at Goodwill. Will you please present our cordial salutations to Major Crissey and his family and to Mr. Young and his family, of the Government Boarding School.

Probably you have learned from Dr. Riggs before this that we had the pleasure of seeing him for a few moments at Morris, where we were detained twenty four hours. We hope he reached Beloit in safety. Please give our kind regards to him when you write.

Very truly yours,

J. O. Means.

May 31. 82.

Miss Mary C. Collins and Miss Louisa McIrvine.

Ft. Sully.

My dear friends:

I write to you as soon as possible after our return to Boston to say that at the meeting of the Prudential Committee yesterday I presented a request in your behalf for a vacation and absence from the mission field during the summer. The request was most cordially granted for each of you, and it was also agreed that the sum which you name as desirable and sufficient to meet your expenses, - $150. - be granted to each of you. This you will use, of course you understand, in whatever way you think best. In coming through Chicago, I also explained to the Woman's Board there that you wanted a vacation and needed it we thought, and that this sum of $150. for each of you we thought ought to be granted; and we hope the Woman's Board at Chicago will hold themselves ultimately responsible for the sum which the Prudential Committee grant. However, that does not concern you, the grant

May 31. 82.

Miss Mary C. Collins and Miss Louisa M. Irvine.
Ft. Sully, Dak.

My dear friends:

I write to you as soon as possible after our return to Boston to say that at the meeting of the Prudential Committee yesterday I presented a request in your behalf for a vacation and absence from the mission field during the summer. The request was most cordially granted for each of you, and it was also agreed that the sum which you name as desirable and sufficient to meet your expences, [illegible] as many [illegible] - $150.- be granted to each of you. This you will use, of course you understand, in whatever way you think best. In coming through Chicago, I also explained to the Woman's Board there that you wanted a vacation and needed it we thought, and that this sum of $150. for each of you we thought ought to be granted; and we hope the Woman's Board at Chicago will hold themselves ultimately responsible for the sum which the Prudential Committee grant. However, that does not concern you, the grant is made to you absolutely. May you have very pleasant visits to your friends, and come home greatly refreshed for your work.

As soon as we receive from Ft. Sully the statements with regard to the proposed new building of which we talked, action will immediately be taken by the Prudential Committee, and I cannot but think the action will be such as will be gratifying to you both. I need not say, for we said while we were with you enough to show you how deeply interested we all were in the work in which you are engaged, both in the school in teaching and in evangelistic labors among the Indians at Peoria Bottom and on the Cheyenne River. We hope the Lord will give you health and strength for the future for such labor as is most rewarding in this field, and as is certainly most needed.

You will be gratified to know that on my way home through New York I went down to Harford, Cortland Co., and had an interview with Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Bissell with regard to their joining the mission force at Ft. Sully. I found them very pleasant people—intelligent, cultivated, cordial, earnest Christians. Mr. Bissell is a college graduate, and he and Mrs. Bissell have both been engaged several years in teaching in Illinois, I think, and elsewhere. They have two little children - a babe, and a little child three years old, I should judge. Their engagements are such that they cannot leave until after the autumn crops are gathered from the farm of which they are now in charge. It is the farm of Mrs. Bissell's father, an aged man, for whom they have been taking care for the year past. I only speak of these as possible, and I may say probable, missionaries for Ft. Sully. They have made offer of service, and their testimonials are very satisfactory, but the Prudential Committee have not yet acted upon them, and it remains for the Prudential Committee to act upon the matter and for them to be designated to their appropriate field afterward. I want to have Mr. Riggs or some of you see them, or write to them, before it is decided whether or not it is best for them to go to Ft. Sully. It is very desirable that the family which comes to Ft. Sully should be one that you will all find agreeable to work with. It is better on every account that they should know something about the missionaries with whom they are to be associated, and that you should know something about them before their field of labor be definitely assigned. Why not write to Mrs. Bissell, each of you ladies, and tell her about the work? Tell her such things as you would like to have communicated to you if you were in her position, and draw from her such things as will give you some notion of her character and make you acquainted with her and able, in a measure, to judge whether you think she would be an agreeable working companion. I wish very much you would do so. Their address is, H. M. Bissell, Harford, Cortland Co. N.Y.

In the name of our Visiting Committee I send you most cordial greetings and grateful thanks for the hospitalities we received from you, and for the pleasant impressions we have brought away of our friends and the work in which they are engaged at Peoria Bottom and on the Cheyenne River. Please communicate this to Mr Riggs.

Very truly yours,
J. O. Means.

Please also remember us gratefully & most kindly to Mrs Henry Riggs.

June 1 82

M. E. Strieby, D.D. Secy Am. Miss. Assn.
&c &c. New York.

My dear Dr Strieby..

In our talk this morning, I spoke to you of the satisfaction our Com. which has just visited our Dakota Indian Mission Stations had in the work which Major Crissey is doing at Sisseton. He seemed to us to be admirably fitted for the place of large usefulness he is filling. He spoke of retiring from the post when his term of service expires next year. I hope he will be persuaded to remain while he requested by those in authority to remain.

At Ft Berthold we found Major Kauffman: with whose conduct of the agency all good men seemed satisfied. He impressed us as an honest, substantial, upright, conscientious agent. At Bismarck we found, however, Indian Inspector Gardner, who said to the gentlemen that he had decided to recommend to the Department the removal of Mr Kauffman. If there has been difficulty, it doubtless is connected with Mr Courtney, once a

Clerk in the Agency, who is spoken of as having made difficulty with several of previous Agts. Mr Courtney has recently been ordered off the Agency, & the Department sustained Major Kauffman in this action. At Bismarck Mr Courtney was living, he & Mr Gardner seem to have been on intimate terms previously, & Mr C. said that Mr Gardner had requested an interview at Bismarck. Mr Gardner was at the Hotel where Mr Courtney is stopping, for three days & nearly the week we were in that region.

I think the friends of Mr Kauffman should take steps to sustain him, unless wrong doing can be proved — which no one out in Dakota, unless of the Ring, believes can be proved. All concede his honesty.

If Mr Kauffman's friends would stir him up to use his authority in a legitimate way to make children attend the Schools, & if he would have boarding Schools established by the Gov't, as they are greatly needed, it would be well. Mr Kauffman is more interested in agriculture than in education.

There are 2000 acres under cultivation, & the fields look finely. This work should go on, but also the education of the children should receive a new impulse.

At Sisseton Major Crissey wants a teacher for the govt boarding school. I wish he could procure a good teacher who is also a good minister.

Very truly yours,

J. O. Means

Can you call the attention of General Fiske to the effort to displace Mr Kauffman?

June 1 82

Mrs J. B. Leake.
Treas. W. B. M. I. &c. &c. Chicago. Ill.

My dear Mrs Leake. –

When our Committee had the very pleasant conference – pleasant to us – with your Executive Committee, on our return from the Dakota Missions, it was asked by some one whether all the Mission Churches were Presbyterian. I answered that I could not say certainly, but that I thought the Church at Peoria Bottom was an exception, & that this was a Congregational Church. I write now to say that this is the case. This Church, where the ladies whom _your_ Board supports are working, is a Congregational Church. As we told you, they are both doing admirable work there.

They asked, the two ladies, Miss Collins & Miss Irvine, for a vacation during the summer, & for an allowance for travelling expenses & outfit of $150. each. The visiting Com. thought they needed it, & we spoke of it to you, perhaps you will also remember. I made a formal request to this effect at the meeting of our Prudential Committee Tuesday: May 30. & the request

I was granted. I trust this will be agreeable to you, & that funds will not be lacking to give the ladies a good vacation. That there might be no delay, Mr Lear Ward handed me checks for $150. & I enclosed one to each lady yesterday.

Mrs Case asked whether they might not visit the Churches & speak in behalf of your Board, during their vacation. I suggested that your ladies might find out & if best arrange this by correspondence with the two teachers.

We returned safely & in good health. I visited a family in Central New York, Cortland Co., with a view to procuring recruits for the Peoria Bottom work. There is a young man & his wife who are willing to undertake the work there, or elsewhere: they have many qualifications for it. They could not go, however, if their offer of service should be accepted, till late in the autumn.

It will not answer, I suppose, to print anything in relation to this special letter: good wishes however are not contraband

June 1 82

I trust.
Most Sincerely, & aoofold,
Yours, J. O. Means.

Pratt Esq. U.S.A. Carlisle Barracks, Pa.

My dear Capt. Pratt

I have just returned from a visit to our Indian Mission Stations among the Dakota. At Fort Berthold I made many inquiries, as I heard many things, about your scholars. You are remembered there with great interest.

I hope you are not discouraged because some of the scholars who have returned have not been as steadfast as some might think they ought to be. Certainly it would be most cheering if they all had continued as earnest & faithful as they were when away from the awful temptations at Ft Berthold. But there is no occasion for being disheartened at the temporary - I believe it will be only temporary - relapses into some of the old ways. Good, incalculable good, I am persuaded, has been accomplished.

I was very sorry not to see you when you were in Boston. One question I wished to ask I will ask you now: when boys & girls are placed out with farmers & mechanics & others, in Penn & Massachusetts, is it customary in ordinary cases

June 1 82

R. H. Pratt Esq. U.S.A. Carlisle Barracks, pa.

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I was very sorry not to see you when you were in Boston. One question I wished to ask I will ask you now: when boys & girls are placed out with farmers & mechanics & others, in Penn & Massachusetts, is it customary in ordinary cases for you to allow those who receive them some pay fit to make the board & clothing &c. of the young Indians? If so, what amount per week or per month is given, on the average?

With best wishes for your still greater & ever greater success in your most philanthropic & most Christian work.

Very truly Yours.
J. O. Means.
Sec'y Am. Board

[illegible] that we shall need.

The question which perhaps I [illegible] & have forgotten [illegible] the gov't rations sufficient [illegible] having to the gov't purchase of clothing for the use of the pupils? & if not, what is the average the cost of the additional amount of food & clothing may be reckoned?

It would seem that the gov't ought to allow [illegible] in these schools to meet fully the expenses of the scholars.

With best wishes to yourself & associates,
Respectfully & very truly yours in the
Service of a Common Lord & Master,
J. O. Means
Sec'y Am. Board of Mis'ns.

Respectfully & very truly yours
J. O. Means
Sec'y Am. Board.

June 1. 82

Miss Ives. St. Mary's School. Santee Agency, Neb.

Permit me to thank you & the ladies of St. Mary's School for the opportunity afforded of visiting your pupils when our Com. were at Santee last April. We were highly gratified with what we saw & heard.

One question I wished to ask & perhaps I did & have forgotten the answer. This, whether the gov't rations suffice ordinarily for the living & the gov't share of clothing for the needs of the pupils: & if not, what on the average the cost of the additional amount of food & clothing may be reckoned?

It would seem that the gov't ought to in these Schools to meet fully the expenses of the scholars.

With best wishes to yourself & associates.

Respectfully & very truly yours in the
Service of a Common Lord & Master,

J. O. Means
Sec'y Am. Board of Com'rs.

June 1, 82.

June 1 82

Rev. Thomas L. Riggs
[illegible] Dak.
[illegible], Santee Agency, Neb.

My dear Sir: When a Committee of our Board visited the Santee Agency [illegible] we regretted very much that you were absent on official duties, as we wished to pay our respects to you & to make some inquiries with regard to the Indian work. We there had the pleasure of visiting the school in charge of Mr. [illegible].

I understand that rations & clothing are provided by the Govt for each of the boys & girls in the boarding school. Permit me to ask whether these rations & this clothing are ordinarily sufficient for the support of the children, & if not, what amount in addition is needed to carry each child through the school year, or the year, & how the additional amount is provided [illegible] the school year?

Excuse me for asking these questions.

Respectfully & very truly yours,

J. O. Means
Secy Am. Board.

June 1, 82.

Rev. Thomas L. Riggs
Ft. Sully, Dak.

My dear brother:

I take the earliest opportunity on reaching Boston to express our thanks for your most cordial hospitalities, and to speak of the great enjoyment we all had in our visit to the Ft. Sully stations. What you say in your letters we cordially respond to, as to satisfaction and pleasure in our mutual intercourse and in the more complete acquaintance we formed. We carried away from Peoria Bottom a very lively sense of the greatness of the work in which you are engaged, and of great hopefulness for the future.

We reached Sisiton after some detention Saturday evening, as you perhaps have learned, and remained there until Wednesday. We did not succeed in reaching Berthold Saturday night, but spent the Sunday at Bismark. We were obliged to go and return from Bismark to Berthold by wagon, but suffered no inconvenience, and a part of the time had great enjoyment on the road. We found our friends there in better condition than we expected to find them. Mr. Burr reached Boston Nov. 25th, Dr. & Mrs. Thompson the 26th and I the 27th Nov.; all of us in good health.

On my way through New York I went down to Harford, Cortland Co. and saw Mr. H. M. Bissell, with his wife, who have had thoughts of the Indian work. Mr. Bissell is a college graduate, intended always to study theology, but was diverted from the study and has been for a number of years a teacher in Illinois and elsewhere. He was born in the Choctaw country where his father was then a missionary. He and his wife both impressed me very favorably as persons fitted for such work as needs to be done at Ft. Sully, and as sociable, agreeable, kindly disposed people. They have two little children - one a babe, the other a boy of three years old, I should judge. They are ready for any missionary service, and if, all things considered, it is thought best, they are ready to go to Ft. Sully. They are now taking care of the farm of Mrs. Bissell's father and cannot arrange to leave until after great enjoyment on the road. We found our friends there in better condition than we expected to find them. Mr. Burr reached Boston the 25th, Dr. & Mrs. Thompson the 26th and I the 27th Nov.; all of us in good health.

On my way through New York I went down to Harford, Cortland Co. and saw Mr. H. M. Bissell, with his wife, who have had thoughts of the Indian work. Mr. Bissell is a college graduate, intended always to study theology, but was diverted from the study and has been for a number of years a teacher in Illinois and elsewhere. He was born in the Choctaw country where his father was then a missionary. He and his wife both impressed me very favorably as persons fitted for such work as needs to be done at Ft. Sully, and as sociable, agreeable, kindly disposed people. They have two little children - one a babe, the other a boy of three years old, I should judge. They are ready for any missionary service, and if, all things considered, it is thought best, they are ready to go to Ft. Sully. They are now taking care of the farm of Mrs. Bissell's father and cannot arrange to leave until after the crops are gathered in the autumn. The testimonials which have been presented of Mr. and Mrs. Bissell are very favorable. We have not yet considered their offer of service at the meeting of the Prudential Committee, but shall do so very soon. I wish you would write to them and tell them about the position to be occupied and the demands of the field. In general, say to them what you would like to have said to you in their position; and you will naturally draw out from them many things which will make you somewhat acquainted with them, and help you to judge as to their fitness for the work. If convenient, I wish you would do this very soon and let me hear what your impression is.

Very truly yours,
J. O. Means

82.

Rev. A. L. Riggs,
Santee Agency, Neb.

My dear brother:

I take pleasure in informing you and our friends at Santee of the safe return of the members of the Visiting Committee at Boston. We reached here last week. Mr. Burr Thursday, Dr. and Mrs. Thompson Friday, and myself Saturday. We come back greatly refreshed, having had no serious interruptions on our journey, all of us in good health, though we had some little exposures, particularly in Northern Dakota.

Your letters of April 28th and May 1st reached us at points on our journey. There was no opportunity of replying to them, however, until now.

First let me say that we carried Josephine Head with us to Peoria Bottom. You requested me to keep an account of expenditures for her and have them then charged to your account, as I understood you had money provided from some source to meet the expenditures.

We were detained on the way by failing to make connections so that the expenditure was greater than otherwise it would have been. I give you the items:- Ferry to Springfield 25 cts., carriage to station 25 cts., ticket to Sheldon $2.18, hotel at Sheldon $1.00, fare to Kasota $1.82, hotel at Kasota $2.00 – we were detained there, – ticket to Pierre $6.95, breakfast at Pierre 50 cts.; total, $14.95. The memorandum you forward of "expenses incurred in behalf of the Visiting Committee by A. L. R., Santee Agency," is $3.98. Deducting this from $14.95 leaves $10.97 debited to you of which Mr. Ward, the treasurer, takes account. I hope that this statement makes it clear to you, as we desire particularly that all expenses incurred by you in behalf of the Committee should be reckoned in. If, since your letter, you find that there were other expenses, please let me know, and they shall be passed to your credit.

You speak of Mr. Williamson's disappointment at our not visiting Yankton Agency. Will you please convey to him our great regrets that the visit we were making to the Indian stations required so much time that it was impossible to go to Yankton, while it would have furnished us great enjoyment to have seen him and his work there: I ask you to make this communication inasmuch as the invitation came through you, and we have not ourselves heard directly from Mr. Williamson.

Your letter of May 25th, submitting estimates for finishing the Boys' Cottage and extending the teachers' club kitchen &c., has just been received. Please say to Mr. Steer if, as I infer from his letter, he is at Santee, that next Tuesday undoubtedly there will be time at the meeting of the Prudential Committee to consider his offer of service. Our Visiting Committee have no doubt but the offer of service will be accepted. Please let me know when the engagement which I believe you have with Mrs. Seymour expires. In your letter of April 28th addressed to the Visiting Committee you refer to what you understand "I had asserted in the proposition to Mr. Steer that there was no head to this institution and that you had no general superintendence," and add, "If I have misunderstood Dr. Means' position he can set it all right in a very few words by saying that he recognizes my general superintendence here. If this is not recognized in word and in fact, I have only one alternative, which is to withdraw." This very grave matter of your withdrawal unless you are recognized in word and in fact as superintendent of the station at Santee, I will say nothing about at present. Your letter will be laid before the Prudential Committee, and their decision will be communicated to you as soon as possible.

Very truly yours,

J. O. Means.

June 1 82.

charged against you. Now, the Prudential Com- [illegible]

one quite long [illegible]

First, in reference to the [illegible] the money expended by you for steward services in 1881. This matter, as the Visiting Committee said in our conversation with you, was committed to them by the Prudential Committee for equitable arrangement with you. We understand the case to be this. — You made a request of money for steward service for 1881. You were not informed that that request was not granted, as you should have been informed. You naturally supposed it was granted, and in that supposition, in which you were justified, went forward and made the expenditure. It appeared subsequently on settling your account for the year that that amount was

June 1, 82.

Rev. Thomas L. Riggs,
Ft. Sully, Dak.

My dear brother:

There are two matters in your recent letters on which you desire me to say something to you, and I do so on this separate sheet, having already written to you one quite long letter.

First, in reference to the grant for the money expended by you for steward services in 1881. This matter, as the Visiting Committee said in our conversation with you, was committed to them by the Prudential Committee for equitable arrangement with you. We understand the case to be this. — You made a request of money for steward service for 1881. You were not informed that that request was not granted, as you should have been informed. You naturally supposed it was granted, and in that supposition, in which you were justified, went forward and made the expenditure. It appeared subsequently on settling your account for the year that that amount was charged against you. Now the Prudential Committee and the Visiting Committee take this course. They recognize the fact that you acted in good faith on the supposition, which you were justified in entertaining, that your request of money for steward services had been granted. You went forward in good faith and made the expenditure. No blame attached to you in regard to the matter. Now that it appears that the grant for this purpose was not made by the Prudential Committee, on the books of the treasurer, there stands debited against you this amount for steward services. The Committee think it equitable and right to credit you with this sum, and balance your account accordingly. You ask that "if appropriation to cover the sum be recommended, the expenditure be fully justified." The expenditure is justified in the sense that no blame attaches to you for expending the money which you supposed was granted. Whether the Committee ought originally to have made the grant or ought not to have made the grant which you requested does not now enter into the question and does not at all affect your relation to it. The expenditure having been made by you in circumstances in which no blame can attach to you, or does attach to you, the money expended is now placed to your credit. Is not this what is equitable and just? We do not see that we can go any farther, or arrange the matter in any other way. This is the unanimous judgment of our Visiting Committee and of the Prudential Committee. The business men of the Committee are particularly clear on this point. I am sorry that you should be annoyed about it, and really I do not think you ought to be.

The second point is with regard to a quotation from a letter of mine to Miss Pike with reference to "evils in the management of affairs". When we talked about the matter at Ft. Sully, not having my letter book at hand, I could not say whether the words which seemed to trouble you were in the correspondence exactly or not; but I find on looking at the letters since my return that in some way you have been misled with regard to the expressions that were used. I received a letter from Miss Pike dated Oct. 29, in which she dwelt upon many things which had troubled her, gave a long account of her visit at Santee at the annual meeting, and named various points in which she thought the women were not sufficiently consulted by the gentlemen of the mission. I do not find in this letter from her any expression such as you quote, namely, "I know that for years some of these ladies at Santee and Sully have felt cramped and repressed as I have." There is no such expression in the letter that I can find. She speaks generally of annoyances which she had experienced as she thought at Berthold. She also speaks generally with regard to matters at Santee. There is no expression "ladies at Santee and Sully" in the letter. She says, "I believe that the gentlemen of this mission are noble, true hearted, Christian men who love this cause better than life, and did they but realize that any serious evil exists which hinders the progress of the work, they would be the first to seek its removal." She goes on in the course of the letter to say what she supposes to be the true position of the women at the mission stations. My letter in reply to her is dated Nov. 4. I begin by saying "Your letter of Oct. 29th reached me in due time. I thank you for writing so fully your past experiences and perplexities and for your account of things in our mission as they seem from your point of view. I am rejoiced that as appears and as I trust you have now come out into a wide place where you can live serenely and work happily as a missionary of the Lord to the ignorant and wretched Indians. Your information of what have been evils in the management of affairs tallies exactly with information received from others. Undoubtedly those who seem responsible for these evils have been utterly unconscious of the facts. As they are devoted Christian men, we can believe that when they learn as they are in the way of learning what needs amendment, so far as depends upon them, there will be a change. The statement you make of what you suppose to be the position of the ladies to other missionaries who are not ordained ministers in our missions, is a true statement of what the Board and the Prudential Committee by the rules understand to be the position, and what may be necessary will be done in any case to make this position secure. I make these long quotations that you may see that the sentence which troubled you did not refer to the "ladies at Sully". I repeat that Miss Pike's letter had no such expression in it, and I had them not in mind when I wrote to her. There were evils as the ladies supposed from their own statements at Berthold certainly and Santee — they say that certainly — and I used the expression I did in regard to them. I am very glad to say, and do most frankly, that the ladies at Ft. Sully had not made any such statements, and I had not heard from them on these points.

I trust that this statement will relieve you of any unpleasant feeling you may have had about this.

And now, my dear brother, let me say a word upon still another point, and one of the utmost consequence. With your other letters is one dated May 23rd in which you place your "formal resignation as a missionary of the American Board in the hands of the Prudential Committee".

You do not need to be assured of the cordial feelings entertained towards you by all the members of the Visiting Committee, for we spoke very plainly — I did, you will remember, in particular - on this point. We were extremely gratified with what we saw and with the plan of work which you were laying out for the future. It seemed to us that you were looking forward in the right direction of accomplishing a good work, and greater work than has yet been accomplished. It seemed to us that you were in the right place and that you were the man, in God's providence, situated as you now are, to do a most excellent work. We hoped that with the coming of another missionary to be at Peoria Bottom you would have such relief and such freedom that you would be enabled, as you suggested, to do a great deal of work on the Cheyenne River and elsewhere for the Indians. Of course it rests with you to decide the great question - for it is a very great question - whether under these circumstances you ought to leave, and shall leave, this work. It is only just to you and to the Committee to say that if you leave, it will be of your own motion. You have spoken of a position under the U. S. Government in connection with the Indian work which if offered to you, you might like to accept. It is not at all undervaluing that position to say that in our judgment your position as a missionary, doing the work which seems to lie before you is a very much more important one. I will say frankly, and as a personal friend, - for I certainly think you will allow me to speak as a personal friend, knowing many of your friends very intimately, being in peculiar relations to some of them, - that it does not look to me very hopeful as to your receiving the appointment which may be desired. I think that if secured it will be done only by a great deal of struggle and effort and in the face of a great many competitors, - that it will involve you and your friends in political movements which will not be altogether pleasant to you. However, that is a matter for your own consideration. I only speak of this as my judgment of what is likely to be the case, and I simply say this as a personal friend to you. Our Visiting Committee have all read your letter. I read it informally as a matter of information, not as matter for action, to the Prudential Committee. It is not yet formally laid before the Prud. Com.

If you desire me to do so, of course I shall; but allow me to suggest that I do not lay it formally before the Prudential Committee until I hear from you again. And also allow me to ask that if finally you decide to have it laid before the Committee, you designate, if possible, the time when you wish the resignation to go into effect. I think I may say the Committee will not hesitate to comply with your wishes however they may question — and I think many of them will very seriously question — the wisdom of your action. You will not blame them for that certainly. Of course the Committee cannot wish nor consent to have any missionary continue in the service of the Board when the service is reluctantly rendered, and when the missionary himself desires to withdraw. There is and must be perfect freedom of action in entering upon the service of the Board, and also in withdrawing from it, and while differences of opinion may be entertained as to what is or ought to be, there can be, and will be, no question as to the right and duty of each missionary to act upon what his conscientious judgment approves.

I wish again to express our great gratification in our visit at Peoria Bottom, and to say that whatever be your position with regard to the Indian work or any other work, you have our cordial esteem and regard. 82

Very sincerely yours,
J. O. Means

[illegible] Your letter of May 30 asking instructions with regard to your furniture, needs immediate attention, as you say you propose to leave Santee June 28.

When an outfit allowance is made & furniture &c. is bought therewith, it is always supposed it is in view of at least several years service. In case where one leaves soon after joining the station, it is considered right that furniture &c. purchased with the outfit allowance be left at ~~the~~ the station for whoever may succeed, & not be taken away as private matters are taken away.

Some of your furniture, I believe, you provided from private means. This, of course you will dispose of as you think best. The rest should be left, & what shall be done with it can be determined afterward.

When you reach Boston of course you will

June 4 82

Miss Ruth A. Faxon,
Santee Agency, Neb.

My dear Miss Faxon:

Your letter of May 30 asking instructions with regard to your furniture, needs immediate attention, as you say you propose to leave Santee June 28.

When an outfit allowance is made & furniture &c. is bought therewith, it is always supposed it is in view of atleast several years service. In case where one leaves soon after joining ~~the~~ station, it is considered right that furniture &c. purchased with the outfit allowance be left at the station for who ever may succeed, & not be taken away as private matters are taken away.

Some of your furniture, I believe, you provided from private means. This, of course you will dispose of as you think best. The rest should be left, & what shall be done with it can be determined afterward.

When you reach Boston of course you will tell us all about your work & about the State of the Schools & other Mission affairs.

May the Lord give you a safe & pleasant journey.

Very truly yours,

J. O. Means.

Your letter of June 5 [illegible] I reply at once by letter, as there is [illegible] & say by telegram. I am thankful you have come on so well, & hope the rest of your journey will be as successful. I wrote in my letter of May 31. of Mr & Mrs C. D. Case, Fairport, near Rochester, N.Y., who are ready to go to Berthold; but cannot go till after Jany 1. 1888. I want you to see them. The Anniversary at Andover is next week: the great days are from Tuesday to Thursday, June 13-15. I am afraid by going to Hampton you will miss them. But I think Hampton will do you more good. Let me know whether you will come to Boston, & when. I shall not be away for many weeks, except possibly for a few days. Mrs Means will welcome you at 81 Mt Pleasant Avenue, Highlands, Boston. Go directly there from the cars: if convenient, send a Postal card a day before you expect

June 8 82

Rev. C. L. Hall. Kenton. O.

My dear brother..

Your letter of June 5 has just reached me. I reply at once by letter, as there is nothing special to say by telegram.. I am thankful you have come on so well, & hope the rest of your journey will be as successful. I wrote in my letter of May 31. of Mr & Mrs C. D. Case. Fairport, near Rochester, N.Y., who are ready to go to Berthold: but cannot go till after Jany 1. 1883. I want you to see them. The Anniversary at Andover is next week: the great days are from Tuesday to Thursday, June 13-15. I am afraid, by going to Hampton you will miss them. But I think Hampton will do you more good. Let me know whether you will come to Boston, & when. I shall not be away for many weeks, except possibly for a few days. Mrs Means will welcome you at 81 Mt Pleasant Avenue. Highlands, Boston. Go directly there from the cars: if convenient, send a Postal card a day before you expect

Revised copy sent

to ~~[illegible]~~ ; this: if not convenient there is no need of this. I have not sent your Rep. book to Kenton, as I did not think of your being there so soon.

If you receive this, return a Postal card. If no card comes, I shall conclude it did not reach you & will write again to Hampton.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

J. O. Means.

[illegible] Some [illegible] Station [illegible] for Santee. You asked [illegible] what his ~~[illegible]~~ relation to you would be. In regard to the new Missionary to be sent here to take charge of the temporalities of the Station, ~~[illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~. I shall wish to be informed before he comes whether I am to be under him or he under me; or whether when he comes will be [illegible].

In reply, ~~[illegible]~~, June 8. 1881. "Of course, all our Missionaries stand ~~[illegible]~~ on equality in a mission. He will neither be under nor over you, or Mr Robbins, & you & Mr Robbins will neither be under nor over him, or under or over each other. You are all brethren". The missionaries, especially missionaries have an equal voice in the management of the affairs of the station where they are

Revised copy sent

Rev. A. L. Riggs. Santee Agency.
My dear brother.

You will be glad to know ~~that~~ the offer of service of Mr & Mrs Jos. H. Steer have been accepted, & they have been appointed assistant missionaries & designated to the Dakota mission. Your recommendations of them had ~~great~~ due weight with the Pru. Com. & we trust & believe they will ~~be~~ render ~~of~~ substantial service ~~[illegible]~~. ~~[illegible]~~ Some months ago (when Mr H. L. Riggs was expecting to join the ~~[illegible]~~) for Santee ~~[illegible]~~ Station, you asked to be informed what his ~~[illegible]~~ relation to you would be. (May 30. '81 you wrote) In regard to the new missionary to be sent here "to take charge of the temporalities of the Station" ~~you wrote~~ ~~[illegible]~~ I shall wish to be informed before he comes whether I am to be under him or he under me. And when he comes will he write the Board."

In reply I ~~[illegible]~~ said June 8. 1881. "Of course, all our missionaries stand on ~~[illegible]~~ an equality in a mission. He will neither be under nor over, you or Mr Robbins, & you & Mr Robbins will neither ... nor over him, or under or over each other. "We are all brethren". The missionaries & assistant missionaries have an equal voice in the management of all the affairs of the Station where they are working. No one of them has direction of any other. We understand that you all work harmoniously together, after full & free consultation; & if in any question that arises there is difference of opinion, the majority decide; & if a decision cannot be reached among the missionaries on the station, the Prudential Committee decide for them."

This equality among missionaries I explained in a conversation I had with Mr Steer at Santee when ~~in accordance with the~~ I stated to him, by direction of the visiting Committee, what special duties the Prud. Com. would probably devolve upon him if he should be designated to Santee. In your letter to visiting Com. of April 28, 1882 you say: "When I reported to Dr Thompson, Mr Burr & Mr Ward that Dr Means had asserted, in his proposition to Mr Steer, that there was no head to this institution & that I had no general superintendance, they said I must have misunderstood. If I have misunderstood Dr Means' position he can set it all right in a very few words, by saying that he recognizes my general superintendance here. If this is not recognized in word & in fact I have only one alternative, which is to withdraw. It will be a sad thing for me to do, to leave the service of the Board;

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but I see no other way that would be just, either to myself or to the work." –

~~Your~~ This letter has been laid before the Prudential Committee ~~& has received~~ [illegible] careful consideration. ~~I am obliged to inform you that while they [illegible] desirous of doing anything reasonable [illegible] to meet your wishes & [illegible] while appreciating at their full value the services you may be able to render in our Indian Mission, the Committee cannot recognize your practical superintendance [illegible]~~.

The Com. calls your attention to the Laws & Regulations (which are binding upon the Pru. Com. as well as upon missionaries) of the Board. Section VII. §38. reads "A majority of missionaries & assistant missionaries in any mission shall, in their regular meetings, decide all questions that may arise in regard to their proceedings & conduct, in which the mission is interested, the decision being subject to the revision of the Prudential Committee. At such meetings every male missionary & assistant missionary present, having arrived at the age of 21 years, is entitled to vote." In accordance with this rule, ~~in~~ all ~~the [illegible]~~ missions of the Am. Board in all the world, from the beginning till now, every such missionary & assistant missionary has had absolute equality of power & privilege with many associate missionaries two ~~[illegible]~~ or more have been stationed together, neither has been subject to, neither has had power over the other. No superintendence of one over the other has been claimed or recognized ~~[illegible]~~ of age, length of service, learning or piety. In frequent instances, where various duties in a mission or station require attention, these duties have been assigned by the Com. or designated ~~the missionaries among themselves~~ ~~by agreement [illegible]~~; & the person to whom certain duties have been assigned is considered ~~[illegible]~~ responsible for his duties, subject of need be to the election of the majority of his associates or of the Prud. Com. except ~~that~~ the treasurer of a mission, by specific rules, as to certain things is not ~~is~~ responsible ~~for certain particulars~~ to his associates but only to the Prudential Committee. In the various educational institutions of the Board in different parts of the world, ~~the~~ principal of the school, when there is one, is not Superintendent of the Station. The associate teachers have a full voice & ~~[illegible]~~ men a full vote with regard to the general interests & general management of the institution. The principal teacher can have no more authority than the President of a College, who has professors subordinate in one sense, but not subject to him, each ~~professor~~ member having voice & vote in faculty meetings of the President

~~Commit~~ Control the treasurer (of the [illegible]) or the Steward, appointed by the Corporation & directly responsible to the Corporation. Under this universal rule of equality of power & privilege on the part of missionaries our missions have been managed ~~[illegible] form of [illegible]~~ and must be managed. ~~We think this also proves the most harmonious & efficient method.~~ The Principal of the educational work at Santee has his proper place & authority. He needs ~~& will~~ profit by the counsel ~~without trenching upon their [illegible]~~ of his associate teachers; they discharge their duties allotted them with ~~a sense of personal independence & responsibility having their~~ ~~a right to a~~ voice in the general management. The Treasurer of the Station has his appropriate duties ~~[illegible]~~ & is ~~held~~ responsible for the right discharge of them, without ~~interfere~~ trenching upon the duties of others & without interference from others. When questions touching common interests arise & opinions are divided, the majority entitled to vote must decide, subject to an appeal, ~~in all cases, when~~ when desired, to the Prudential Committee.

~~You will see from this statement how it is that the Prudential Committee, while appreciating your services in the Indian work at their full value, & desirous of doing anything reasonable & meet your wishes, cannot [illegible] your~~

"~~Statement of difficulties at Saltillo~~" There is a large ~~[illegible]~~ honorable & useful position to be filled. ~~the Com. referring, at Saltillo, to the principal of the school.~~ ~~[illegible]~~ in charge & supervision of the general religious work ~~the~~ & special educational work. This does not involve on the part of the principal any other control & direction of the other teachers than they voluntarily agree ~~[illegible]~~. It involves full & free consultation with them & ~~in case there is difference of opinion~~ ~~[illegible]~~ & the carrying out of such plans as the majority ~~[illegible]~~ decide upon. ~~& in case there is difference of opinion~~ While the female missionaries do not vote, according to the Rule XI. of the Manual, "In the consideration of questions touching their own work the unmarried women of a station are to have an equal voice with the men." Matters of detail in the work assigned to women, the arrangement of classes in the schools, & the like — while advice & assistance may be asked about these — are committed to the women in charge, as & men ~~[illegible]~~ committed, to arrange & order the details of their specific work. In all these respects institutions in charge of women & of men are on precisely the same basis, whether the institutions are under trustees or otherwise."

In view of your communication & in compliance with his ~~own~~ request for a specific ~~designation~~ statement; of ~~what~~ the Prud. desire him to do at Santee. Mr. Steer ~~has been~~ designated (by the Prud. Com.) Treasurer of the Dakota Mission & of Santee Station with the following terms:–

Dakota &

"The Secretary was directed to inform Mr. Steer that while he & Mrs. Steer will be expected to render such other ordinary missionary service as may be in their power, he is to be the Treasurer of the Dakota Mission & of the Santee Station, & is to discharge those duties in accordance with the Manual of Instructions to Mission Treasurers; ~~that~~ he is also to have the charge of procuring supplies &c for the schools & boarding houses, to have the care of the buildings & property in general, & supervise the employment of Indians & others, as may be expedient, in farm work & other work".

You will see from these statements how it is ~~that the~~ Prudential Committee, while appreciating at their full value your services in the Indian work & ~~being~~ desirous of doing anything reasonable to meet your wishes, ~~however they cannot that you make~~ ~~these as alternative~~ which you ask in your letter of April 28, cannot ~~[illegible]~~ ~~in fact your general superintendence at Santee~~. The Treasurer must discharge the

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duties indicated above & be responsible only as the Rules ~~[illegible]~~ require. The assistant ~~missionaries~~ missionaries must ~~not~~ be secured in the rights & privileges which ~~the~~ Rules assign to them. It may be ~~We cannot ask that~~ not presuming that you will reconsider your decision & continue in the Indian work on the same footing [illegible] with all ~~the~~ other honored missionaries of the Board.²

As this letter is of general concern to the missionaries & ~~assistant~~ missionaries, assistants, it is to be communicated to them all.

By direction of the Prudential Committee

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[illegible] to leave the Dakota [illegible] Clark & [illegible] ment. I have written to [illegible] to know his wishes. Until we know that he wishes the position, it might seem like crowding him out for officers of the Board to urge his appointment.

I have just returned from a most interesting visit to the Dakota mission.

With best wishes. Very truly yours
J. O. Means.

June 14 '82

Genl S. C. Armstrong: Hampton Normal Inst. Va.

My dear General.

Your letter about the movement to secure the appointment of Rev. Thos L. Riggs as Inspector of Indian Schools has just been received. We do not want Mr Riggs to leave the Dakota Mission. He is greatly needed & is doing a great work. But if he wishes to take this government position, both Dr Clark & I myself will do all we can to forward the movement. I have written to Mr Riggs to know his wishes. Until we know that he wishes the position, it might seem like "crowding him out" for officers of the Board to urge his appointment.

I have just returned from a most interesting visit to the Dakota Mission.

With best wishes, Very truly yours

J. O. Means.

June 14 82

Rev Thos L. Riggs: Fort Sully, Dak. T.

My dear brother:—

I wrote you on the first instant in respect, among other things, to your proffer of your resignation. There has just come a letter from Gen'l Armstrong saying that friends are presenting your name for appointment as Superintendent of Schools in the Indian Department.

As this needs immediate attention, if anything effectual is done, I write at once to know what your personal wishes are. If all things considered, you would take the position, although very sorry to have you leave the mission, I will most gladly do whatever I can to forward your appointment.

Very truly yours,

J. O. Means

June 14. 82.

Rev. A. L. Riggs,
Santee Agency.

Dear brother:-

You will be glad to know that the offers of service of Mr. and Mrs. Jos. H. Steer have been accepted, and that they have been appointed assistant missionaries, and designated to the Dakota mission. Your recommendations of them, of course, had weight with the Prudential Committee, and we trust they will render substantial services.

Some months ago when Mr. H. J. King was expecting to join the Santee station, you asked to be informed what his relation to you would be. May 30, 1881, you wrote:- "In regard to the new missionary to be sent here 'to take charge of all the temporalities' of the station, I shall wish to be informed before he comes whether I am to be under him or he under me? And when he comes will he milk the cows?"

In reply, Secretary Means wrote, June 8, 1881:- "Of course, all our missionaries stand on an equality in a mission. He will neither be under nor over, you or Mr. Robbins, and you and Mr. Robbins will

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will neither be under nor over him, nor under or over each other. Ye are all brethren. The missionaries and assistant missionaries have an equal voice in the management of all the affairs of the station where they are working. None of them has direction of any other. We understand that you all work harmoniously together, after full and free consultation; if in any question that arises there is difference of opinion, the majority decides; if a decision cannot be reached among the missionaries in the station, the Prudential Committee decide for them."

This equality among missionaries was explained in a conversation Secretary Means had with Mr. Stier at Santee when he stated to him, by direction of the visiting Committee, what special duties the Prudential Committee would probably devolve upon him if he should be designated to Santee. In your letter to the Visiting Committee of April 28, 1882, you say: "When I reported to Dr. Thompson, Mr. Burr and Mr. Ward that Dr. Means had asserted, in his proposition to Mr. Stier, that there was no head to this institution and that I had no general superintendence, they said I must have misunderstood. If I have misunderstood Dr. Means' position, he can set it all right in a very few words, by saying that he recognizes my general superintendence here. If this is not recognized in word and in fact, I have only one alternative, which is to withdraw. It will be a sore thing for me to do, to leave the service of the Board; but I see no other way that would be just, either to myself or to the work. There must be a head to this work, and there will be, the question is whether it is to be I, working under the authority and general direction of the Prudential Committee, or whether it is to be Dr. Means."

This letter has been laid before the Prudential Committee, and the question you present has received careful consideration.

As you have frequently alluded to the action of the Secretary as distinguished from that of the Prudential Committee, the Committee desire first of all that you should be reminded that all the inquiries and suggestions from the mission rooms, as to the conduct of the mission, have been the inquiries and suggestions of the Committee, the Secretary only acting as the medium of communication.

As to the question of superintendence, the Committee call your attention to the Laws and

Regulations of the Board, which are binding upon the Prudential Committee as well as upon missionaries. Section VII, § 32, read, "A majority of missionaries and assistant missionaries in any mission, shall, in their regular meetings decide all questions that may arise in regard to their proceedings and conduct, in which the mission is interested, the decision being subject to the revision of the Prudential Committee. At such meetings every male missionary and assistant missionary present, having arrived at the age of twenty-one years, is entitled to vote." In accordance with this rule in all the missions of the Board, every such missionary and assistant missionary has absolute equality of power and privilege with every associate. Wherever two or more are stationed, no *one* is subject to the other. No superintendence of one over others, in virtue of age, length of service, learning or piety, is recognized. Naturally in all cases associate missionaries give due weight to the opinions of those who have been longest in the field. Where various duties are to be performed in a mission or station, these duties are assigned by the Prudential Committee, or distributed by the missionaries among themselves, and each

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one is responsible for his duties, subject if need be to the direction of the majority, or of the Prudential Committee: except that the Treasurer of a mission, as to certain things, is not responsible to his associates, but only to the Committee. In the various educational institutions of the Board in different missions, the principal of a school is not superintendent of the station. The associate teachers have a full voice, and the men a full vote, with regard to the management of the institution. The principal can have no more authority than a President of a college, in which there are professors, in one sense subordinate but not subject: each professor having voice and vote in faculty meetings. The President does not control the Treasurer or Steward appointed by, and directly responsible to the corporation of the college.

Our missions are all sustained under this universal rule of equality in power and privilege of each missionary.

The principal of the institution at Santee has his place of authority. He needs and can profit by the counsel of the associate teachers, without trenching upon their privileges. They discharge the duties allotted to them, with a sense of personal independence and responsibility, and with their voice in the general management. The Treasurer is responsible for his duties. If questions touching common interests arise, about which opinions are divided, the majority of those entitled to vote must decide, subject to an appeal, if desired, to the Prudential Committee. The principal of the school at Santee, the Committee believe, has a large, honorable and useful position. Relieved of business perplexities, you can devote your whole time and energy to the raising up and training of native teachers and preachers. The need of educated native ministers has increased with the development of the Dakota mission, and is now immeasurably beyond what it was when the institution at Santee was founded, and you went there with this specific end in view. The opportunity and the necessity are such that in the accomplishment of the result, all your ability and experience will find employment. As principal, there will naturally devolve upon you the general supervision of the religious and educational work at the Station. This involves no other control and direction of the associate teachers, than such as they voluntarily agree to for the common good. It involves free consultation with them, and the carrying out of the plans which the majority decide upon. While the unmarried women do not vote, according to Rule XI of the Manual for Women, "In the consideration of questions touching their own work, the unmarried women of a mission station are to have an equal voice with the men.- Matters of detail in the work assigned to women, the arrangement of classes in the schools, and the like - while advice and assistance may be asked about these - are committed to the women in charge, as to men it is committed to arrange and order the details of their specific work. In all these respects institutions in charge of women and of men are on precisely the same basis, whether the institutions are under trustees or otherwise."

In view of your communication, and of the request of Mr. Ware for a definition of his duties, we state that Mr. Ware has been designated Treasurer of the Dakota mission, and of the Santee station, in the following terms:–

"While Mr. and Mrs. Steer will be expected to render such other ordinary service as may be in their power, he is to be the Treasurer of the Dakota mission and of the Santee station, and is to discharge those duties in accordance with the Manual of directions to Mission Treasurers; he is also to have the charge of procuring supplies &c. for the schools and boarding houses, to have the care of the buildings and property in general, and supervise the employment of Indians and others, as may be expedient, in farm work and other work."

The Treasurer will discharge the duties indicated above, and be responsible as the rules require. The Prudential Committee fully appreciate the value of your services in the Indian work, and they believe that you will reconsider your decision, and continue on the same footing of power and authority with all the other honored missionaries of the Board.

By direction of the Prudential Committee,

Very truly Yours,

J. O. Means. Secty.

June 14. 82.

Mr. Joseph H. Steer,
Treasurer Dakota Mission, Santee. Neb.

My dear brother:-

You were notified last week that your offer of service was accepted, and that you and Mrs. Steer were appointed assistant missionaries, and designated to the Dakota mission.

In a conversation with you at Santee, statements were made as to the special duties the Prudential Committee would probably devolve upon you if you should be designated to that station. The question of superintendence of the Santee station has been laid before the Prudential Committee in a letter since received, and you also have requested to be specifically instructed as to your own responsibilities. At the meeting on Tuesday of this week, the Prudential Committee made the following deliverance which, as it is of general interest, as you are about entering upon your duties as Treas you are requested to communicate to the members of the Santee station.

"As to the question of superintendence, the Committee call your attention to the Laws and Regulations of the Board, which are binding upon the

Prudential Committee as well as upon missionaries. Section VII, §38, reads, "A majority of missionaries and assistant missionaries in any mission, shall, in their regular meetings decide all questions that may arise in regard to their proceedings and conduct, in which the mission is interested, the decision being subject to the revision of the Prudential Committee. At such meetings every male missionary and assistant missionary present, having arrived at the age of twenty-one years, is entitled to vote." In accordance with this rule in all the missions of the Board, every such missionary and assistant missionary has absolute equality of power and privilege with every associate. Wherever two or more are stationed, no one is subject to the other. No superintendence of one over others, in virtue of age, length of service, learning or piety, is recognized. Naturally in all cases associate missionaries give due weight to the opinions of those who have been longest in the field. Where various duties are to be performed in a mission or station, these duties are assigned by the Prudential Committee, or distributed by the missionaries among themselves, and each one is responsible for his duties, subject if need be to the direction of the majority, or of the Prudential Committee: except that the Treasurer of a mission as to certain things, is not responsible to his associates, but only to the Committee. In the various educational institutions of the Board in different missions, the principal of a school is not superintendent of the station. The associate teachers have a full voice, and the men a full vote, with regard to the management of the institution. The principal can have no more authority than a President of a College, in which there are professors, in one sense subordinate but not subject, each professor having voice and vote in faculty meetings. The President does not control the Treasurer or Steward appointed by, and directly responsible to, the corporation of the College.

"Our missions are all sustained under this universal rule of equality in power and privilege of each missionary.

"The principal of the institution at Santee has his place of authority. He needs, and can profit by the counsel of the associate teachers, without trenching upon their privileges. They discharge the duties allotted to them, with a sense of personal independence and responsibility, and with their voice in the general management. The Treasurer is responsible for his duties. If questions touching common interests arise, about which opinions are divided, the majority of those entitled to vote must decide, subject to an appeal, if desired, to the Prudential Committee. The principal of the school at Santee, the Committee believe, has a large, honorable and useful position. Relieved of business perplexities, he can devote his whole time and energy to the raising up and training of native teachers and preachers. The need of educated native ministers has increased with the development of the Dakota mission, and is now immeasurably beyond what it was when the institution at Santee was founded, and he went there, with this specific end in view. The opportunity and the necessity are such that in the accomplishment of the results, all his ability and experience will find employment. As principal, there will naturally devolve upon him the general supervision of the religious and educational work at the station. This involves no other control and direction of the associate teachers, than such as they voluntarily agree to for the common good. It involves free consultation with them, and the carrying out of the plans which the majority decide upon. While the unmarried women do not vote, according to Rule XI of the Manual for Women, "In the consideration of questions touching their own work, the unmarried women of a mission station are to have an equal voice with the men.-

Matters of detail in the work assigned to women, the arrangement of classes in the schools, and the like- while advice and assistance may be asked about these - are committed to the women in charge, as to whom it is committed to arrange and order the details of their specific work. In all these respects institutions in charge of women and of men are on precisely the same basis, whether the institutions are under trustees or otherwise."

"Mr Steer has been designated Treasurer of the Dakota mission, and of the Santee station, in the following terms:-

"While Mr. and Mrs Steer will be expected to render such other ordinary service as may be in their power, he is to be the Treasurer of the Dakota mission and of the Santee station, and is to discharge those duties in accordance with the Manual of directions to Mission Treasurers: he is also to have the charge of procuring supplies &c. for the schools and boarding houses, to have the care of the buildings and property in general; and supervise the employment of Indians and others, as may be expedient, in farm work and other work."

"The Treasurer will discharge the duties indicated above, and be responsible as the rules require."-

Mr Ward, Treasurer of the Am. Board, will communicate with you & forward to you the manual of instructions to Mission Treasurers for your general guidance.

With best wishes.

Very truly Yours.

J. O. Means.

Sec'y Am. Board.

July 3, 82.

Mr. Joseph A. Steer

Santee Agency, Neb.

Dear Mr. Steer:

Your letter of June 28th was received on the 30th.

Our Treasurer, Mr. Ward, says he has written to you and sent you the necessary documents to put you in possession of all that you need to know with regard to the duties of treasurer of the mission and of the station. It is Mr. Ward's very decided opinion, and the rest of us agree with him, that it is a better time to undertake the whole work now than it will be subsequently, that matters will not come upon you very heavily for the other three stations of the Dakota mission, and that by waiting till the first of January before assuming the duties of treasurer of the mission, there would really be no gain. Of course if you find it impossible to do so, you will not; but we think on many accounts it will be easier for you to enter upon the duties of treasurer of the mission, and let the accounts begin under your charge the first of July, and

July 3. 82.

Mr. Joseph A. Steer,
Santee Agency, Neb.

Dear Mr. Steer:

Your letter of June 25th was received on the 30th.

Our Treasurer, Mr. Ward, says he has written to you and sent you the necessary documents to put you in possession of all that you need to know with regard to the duties of treasurer of the mission and of the station. It is Mr. Ward's very decided opinion, and the rest of us agree with him, that it is a better time to undertake the whole work now than it will be subsequently, that matters will not come upon you very heavily for the other three stations of the Dakota mission, and that by waiting till the first of January before assuming the duties of treasurer of the mission, there would really be no gain. Of course if you find it impossible to do so, you will not; but we think on many accounts it will be easier for you to enter upon the duties of treasurer of the mission, and let the accounts begin under your charge the first of July, and then at the beginning of another year, in January, you will have everything in hand ready to go on. Otherwise at the beginning of the next year, in January, Mr. Ward thinks you will find a great many things which you will need to know about, and which you will have good opportunity of inquiring and learning about, between now and that time. Mr. Ward has forwarded, or, if he has not, he will immediately forward to you such statements of the present financial condition of the mission as to relieve you of all undue care in regard to it.

I requested Mr. Ward when he was writing to you recently to say that we thought it expedient for you to continue Mr. Seymour for the time you had proposed.

Mr. Hall of Berthold has been here a few days, but leaves tonight for New York. He has gone down the Harbor this morning with friends, and I think is resting and enjoying his vacation.

With kind regards to Mrs. Steer and best wishes to the friends at Santee,

Very truly yours,

J. O. Means.

July 3, 82.

Mrs Martha R. Morris,
Sissiton Agency, Dak.

My dear Mrs. Morris:

Your letter of June 14th. addressed to the Visiting Committee, and the private letter to Dr. Thompson of the same date, have been put into my hands by Dr. Thompson, with a request that I would send a reply to you.

We have had under careful consideration the matter of putting up a Girls' Home at Sissiton. I regret to be obliged to say that the Committee do not judge it expedient to erect such a building at present, and therefore we do not think it proper that any appeal be made by any connected with our mission for this purpose. Of course unless the building is to be erected an appeal could not be justified; and we think it inevitable that if a request was made, however privately, for funds for such a purpose, it would be considered by those of whom money was solicited that the erection of the building was to be with the approval and under the direction of the Prudential Committee, and it would involve further expenditures in due time by the Committee for the completion of the building and for the support of the institution. I am very sorry to be obliged to say this. I do it by direction of the Committee.

Your vacation I presume is just beginning. I suppose this is the beautiful time of the year at Sisiton. I hope you will have a very pleasant summer, and be well rested for the work in the autumn.

Respectfully and very truly yours,
J. O. Means.

July 3. 82.

Rev. R. W. Logan,
Mallet Creek, Medina Co. O.

My dear brother:

I thank you for your letter of June 30 from Lodi which has just reached me, and I hope you find yourself resting and gaining. I am quite sure that it is absolutely essential for you to resist importunities to make public addresses. Your best service to the Micronesia mission, to the islanders and to the church, at present, is to lie idle.

What is the condition of your finances? Please let me know how you are and what you think is the needful allowance while you are at home. It is customary, as you know, for the salaries of missionaries to cease when they leave their fields, and to have their travelling expenses paid from their stations till they reach their residence in this country, and then a monthly allowance is made according to the necessities of the missionary's family. If you will please let me know, a grant will be made. Of course it is necessary to keep within such expenditure as is appropriate under the circumstances. You must have regard to your health, however, and be sure that what you need is to be obtained.

I am very thankful you are taking such an interest in the Bihé mission. It was Mr. Miller-not Mr. Sanders- who speaks about the possible necessity of using the rod in his school on the little scholars. I suppose he used the expression jocosely. I have no idea that he had any thought of using corporal punishment. Probably his scholars would flee from him at once on any such demonstration.

Dr. Alden speaks very pleasantly of his interview with you at Oberlin.

Our last advices from the Sandwich Islands were up to June 5th. The "Morning Star" had not sailed, as the "Julia" had not arrived. They were expecting the "Julia" every day.

With best wishes to yourself and Mrs. Logan and your children,

Very truly yours,

J. O. Means

July 6th 1882

Hon. H Price,
Com. of Indian Affairs,
&c. &c.

Dear Sir:—

I have the honor to inclose vouchers in duplicate for the instruction of Indian children, at our School at the Sisseton Agency for the term ending March 31st 1882.

The Amount due is $369.25

Respectfully yours.
J. O. Means
Sec'y Am. Board

Rev. Thos. L. Riggs. July 6th 1882.
Oahe, Hughes Co. Dak.

[illegible] other: Your letter from the New Post [illegible], July 1. has just reached me. I congratulate you on the better mail facilities.

[illegible]

Meanwhile, please [illegible] as soon as possible the [illegible] mission for this year: as [illegible] of course — with so complete [illegible]

Now a few words about the matter again in your letter of June 16th, recd 26th: the matter of my arrangement for [illegible] during the past winter". You say, "I was under the impression that the grant asked for Steward's services had been voted & the object of that grant fully approved," "in which" you say "you were justified":

My letter from which you quote (this last sentence) you will see, says you were justified in the supposition that "your request for money for Steward's services

July 8 82

Rev. Thos. L. Riggs.

Oahe. Hughes Co. Dak.

My dear brother: Your letter from the New Post office, July 1. has just reached me. I congratulate you on the better mail facilities.

Your letter of June 22. & the previous letter of resignation, withheld as I wrote you, till this letter of June 22d came, will be laid before the Prud. Com. at the next meeting.

Meanwhile, please have prepared & forwarded as soon as possible the annual report of the Dakota Mission for this year: as Secy this falls to you, of course – with as complete statistics as possible.

Now a few words about the matter again spoken of in your letter of June 14th, recd 26th: "the matter of my arrangement for a family here during the past winter": You say "I was under the impression ~~that~~ the grant asked for steward's services had been voted & the object of ~~that~~ grant fully approved," in which "you say" "you were justified:" –

My letter from which you quote this last sentence, you will see, says you were justified in the supposition ~~that~~ "your request for money for steward's services had been granted." The sentence "and the object of that grant fully approved." does not appear in my letter, so that my "argument" as you suggest, does not quite "apply" to this.

In the case of your engaging your brother Henry, while, as you say, you did not know that the Prud. Com. thought he ought not to be in the service of the Board, it could hardly be supposed that some of the other members of the Mission who were at the annual meeting did not know it. Then, when the engagement was in contemplation, there was time to communicate with the Com. at Boston & ascertain whether such an arrangement might be made. The Com. had declined to make a grant for Steward's services in advance. They had said: "when a Steward shall be appointed by the Com. at Fat Sully, the salary will be granted." They wished to know beforehand something about the person who was to be taken into the service. Just as soon as you informed the Com. of what you had done, the Com. replied that they could not approve the selection. It was done immediately, that the arrangement might not be consummated, & expense not be incurred.. On learning that the Com. could not sanction it, you wrote, Nov. 19. 1881 "The arrangement, however, will stand — at my expense."

I cannot but think some of these facts had escaped your remembrance when you were writing your letter of June 14. It does not seem to me you should say of the expenditure — $350 it has cost me — "is but a fair fine for my blunder in the case"; but rather, as I preferred at any rate to make their own arrangement with my brother, I of course made the expense.

Then here, my dear Mr. Riggs, you cannot think the Com. have been ungenerous, not to say unjust to you, in this matter.

I am sorry that you have been unwell, & hope a summer's rest will restore you.

With best wishes, very truly yours

J. O. Means

July 14. 82.

Gen. E. Whittlesey, Sec. U.S. Indian Commissioners.
Washington, D.C.

My dear General:

In reading the Report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, I am not quite clear but I may make a mistake in some of the figures given, with regard to the liabilities of the U.S. at the present time, ~~and~~ as to which I do not wish to make an incorrect statement. Undoubtedly you know just how things are, and by turning to the 234-251 it will see whether I have misquoted them. According to my reading, I should say this:- "The present liability of the U.S. to Indian tribes under treaty engagements for limited annuities to be paid in a limited number of years is $9,682,032.;- for annuities of a permanent character $349,432.;- for amounts held in trust on which 5% is annually paid $6,120,045.; and the amount disbursed from the appropriations for the Indian Department for the year ending June 30, 1881, was $4,287,323."
- I should esteem it a favor if you will be kind enough to look over the Report of the

Dept. and correct me if I am in error in any of these figures. 82

I write this to you, but I really hope it will not reach you in Washington, — I hope you are away somewhere in this heated weather, — but I suppose it will fall into the hands of some person in your rooms competent to answer, and who may answer this letter as by your authority and in your behalf.

With kindest wishes to Mrs. Whittlesey,

Very truly yours,

J. O. Means

Sec'y Am. Board.

H. Steer Treas. Santee Neb.

[illegible] the 10th [illegible] way you designate, if you choose. [illegible] the mode of expenditure.

As to your living conveniences, try & get along as comfortably as possible, for the present. I have brought before the Pru. Com. the matter of the addition to the Dakota Home, & of the finishing rooms in the Young men Boys Cottage. The Com. wait to decide some other questions before they will take action on these additions. In due time you will be provided for. The same maybe said as to providing stable conveniences.

Mr Robbins & Miss Paddock made a brief call on their way to their friends, I expect [illegible]

July 15 82

to Mrs Jos. W. Steer: Treas. Santee. Neb.

My dear Mother:-

Yours of the 10th is just recd. I am glad to hear that you are getting hold of your work. It must seem lonely at Santee with so many absent.

You can draw the $400. for outfit & expend it in the way you designate, if you choose. No account need be rendered of the mode of expenditure of outfit.

As to your living conveniences, try & get along as comfortably as possible, for the present. I have brought before the Bldg. Com. the matter of the addition to the Dakota Home, & of the finishing rooms in the ~~Young~~ men Boys Cottage. The Com. wait to decide some other questions before they will take action on these additions. In due time you will be provided for. The same may be said as to providing stable conveniences.

Mr Robbins & Miss Paddock made a brief call on their way to their friends. I expect

to see them after they have rested.
With best wishes to Mrs Steer,
Very truly yours,
J. O. Means.

[illegible] 19 82
Rev. [illegible] Neb
[illegible]
[illegible] forward

as soon as possible the annual report of the school & station with statistics.

Yours of June 23 was received June 29. In reply the Prudential Committee specially instruct me to say that there has been & is no difference of judgment between them & the Secretary or Secretaries as to any matters touching the Dakota Mission or any members thereof, & that the Secretary in his communications has simply acted in their behalf: Also, the Committee are confident that as you read over the letter of June 14 you will more & more appreciate the reasons why such exceptional action could not be taken as to assent to your request "to recognize" you "in word & in deed as Superintendent at Santee". Now, with Mr Steer taking hold of his department, & the rest of you recruited by the vacation, we trust the work will go forward more successfully than ever.

Very truly yours.
J. O. Means. Sec'y.

July 19 82

Rev. A. L. Riggs, Santee Agency, Neb.

My dear brother:

Will you please forward as soon as possible the annual report of the School & station with statistics.

Yours of June 23 was received June 29. In reply, the Prudential Committee specially instruct me to say that there has been & is no difference of judgment between them & the Secretary or Secretaries as to any matters touching the Dakota Mission or any members thereof, & that the Secretary in his communications has simply acted in their behalf; also, the Committee are confident that as you read over the letter of June 14 you will more & more appreciate the reasons why such exceptional action could not be taken as to assent to your request "to recognize" you "in word & in deed as Superintendent at Santee." Now, with Mr Steer taking hold of his department, & the rest of you recruited by the vacation, we trust the work will go forward more successfully than ever.

Very truly yours.

J. O. Means. Sec.

July 21 82

Rev. Thos L. Riggs.

Oahe. Hughes Co. Dak.

My dear brother. –

In my last letter I said that yours reaffirming your resignation would be laid before the Prud. Com. the next week. There were so many matters requiring immediate action at that & the subsequent meeting of the Com. that there was no opportunity to lay your letter before the Com. The Visiting Com. think, as there is nothing requiring decision at once, so far as you are concerned, that no harm can come to any one by the delay.

Last month Mr Jos H. Steer's offer of service was accepted, & since he has been designated Treasurer of the Dakota Mission & of the Santee Station.

Mr Bissell of Harford, N.Y. has been designated to the Dakota Mission: & the Visiting Com. recommend that he go to Oahe. You

Copies sent to Rev. A. L. Riggs -
" T. L. Riggs -
" C. L. Hall

July 28 82

Rev. Dr. S. R. Riggs

said a few words only about Mr. Williams of Pierre; but from your reticence I inferred you did not think him specially qualified for Indian work. He is very kindly spoken of by several who have written about him, but none commend him decidedly for Indian work. In view of this, it does not seem to us wise to think of him for this service. If you think otherwise please say so. You ought to know of any one: & one whom you think fit ought not to be discouraged.

With best wishes,

Very truly yrs.

J. O. Means

Copies sent to Rev. A. L. Riggs. }
" T. L. Riggs. }
" C. L. Hall. }

July 28 82

Rev. Dr S. R. Riggs

Sisseton Agency. Dakota.

My dear Dr Riggs.

Since our return the Visiting Committee have carefully considered the facts ascertained in our visit to the Stations of the Dakota Miſsion & the suggestions which naturally flow from them. We have laid them in our report before the Prudential Committee, which has unanimously reached the conclusion that while the Fort Sully & Cheyenne River fields & the Fort Berthold & Devil's lake fields are still appropriate fields for Foreign Miſsions, the Santee & the Sisseton communities, under God's bleſsing upon faithful labors, have reached such a condition that they should paſs out from the care of a Foreign & come under the care of a Home Miſsionary Society. At Santee & Sisseton the churches are as fairly organized, they cover the ground & are doing their appropriate work, as well as the Home Miſsionary Churches around them. Regarded in all aspects, they may not improperly be considered as Christian communities as truly as the neighboring communities of white people. The Churches & Schools need continued sympathy & supervision to some extent & pecuniary aid, in the same way as do other Communities under Home Missionary care. If now the Churches, or some of them, were Congregational, we think it would be proper for the Am. Home Miss. Society to receive them under their care. The Churches are all Presbyterian, with native pastors, elders & deacons, in organic connection with the Presbytery of Dakota. It seems proper therefore that the Presbyterian Board of Home Missions should take them in charge. Nothing has been said or done in this direction till yesterday, by direction of the Prudential Com., I had a confidential interview with the Secretaries & treasurer of the Pres. Board of Home Missions in New York. They expressed themselves as prepared to entertain a proposition for the reception of the Churches & schools at Santee & Sisseton, if we should make a proposition for the transfer. I said to them that we wished the interview to be regarded as wholly confidential, & that nothing would be done till, on finding as we did that they regarded the matter favorably, we communicated with you & our other missionaries.

If it be expedient to make this transfer one condition distinctly stated would be ~~that~~ Rev. Dr. S. R. Riggs be invited specially to continue a missionary of the Am. Board & receive his usual salary, with the view of rendering such general service as might be agreeable & possible. Another condition would be that all the members of the mission in our service at Santee & Sisseton be adopted by the Presb. Board & continued in the service on the same terms as at present: unless any of them should decline this. In that case they will be invited to labor under the Am. Board in other fields of the Indian missions.

It is impossible to separate between the churches & the schools at Sisseton there would be no difficulty: but it was apprehended that there might be at Santee. The Presb. Board of Home Missions would particularly welcome the school work it was found. It was not said so at New York, it is however my inference that the Woman's Board, also will provide the money for the schools would be specially interested in the desired arrangement of school work for girls at Sisseton. The one difficulty at Santee is, that Rev. A. L. Riggs is a decided Congregationalist, & the Presb. Board can receive no minister not connected with a Presbytery. It was suggested, at New York, that he might join Presbytery. It was replied by me that this must be considered in any proposal which might be made for a transfer; & that it must be left wholly for him to decide, of course; & that if he declined to remain in the school & yet a transfer should seem all things considered advisable, he would be invited to some other station of our Dakota Mission, as we are now looking for ministers for work which needs to be done. — Since writing the foregoing I see in the Word Carrier for June that you think "the educational work, even at Sisseton should not be given up by the Board." I presume you mean it should not be thrown upon the Indians. The Presb. Board would take it, if we shd transfer it to them, & continue it and keep substantially as it is at present.

Very truly yours, J. O. Means

July 29 82

Mr Jos. H. Steer, Santee Agency. Neb.

My dear brother.-

I have written to Mr Riggs a letter which he will show to you about the possible transfer of our schools & churches at Santee & Sisseton, to the care of the Presb. Board of Home Missions. It is impossible as yet to say whether any such transfer will be made. In case it is made, it will be one condition that our missionaries & assistants continue, if they wish to, as they now are, & be adopted by the Presb. Board. If any do not wish to continue under the Presb. Board, in case a transfer is made, due provision for such will of course be made. If, in view of your Church relations, there should be any difficulty on your part or on ~~that~~ of the Presb. Board, I have no doubt but we should wish you to continue in the service at one of the other stations of our Indian Mission, as Peoria Bottom, Cheyenne River or that region, or Fort Berthold or that region. I write this specially to you as, while Congregationalists & Presbyterians are constantly interchanging Church relations, I am not so sure that Friends & Presbyterians are so. I wish you to have no concern upon this matter. When the arrangement was made with you, of course this transfer was not in contemplation. I say this that you may not think it strange no intimation was given you of such a possible change.

Miss Paddock was in my room yesterday. She reports that her physician thinks she ought not to go back to Scutari for a year. Mr Robbins, she reports, is gaining & doing very well.

With kind regards to Mrs Steen, & congratulations upon the new-comer of whom Miss Paddock informed me,

Very truly yours.

J. O. Means.

Aug. 14 82

Mr H. M. Bissell:

My dear brother.

I thank you for your note of the 11th, just received. I am glad you are to be ordained & hope you will be able to pursue studies so as hereafter to make full proof of thy ministry of the Lord Jesus.

In respect to your outfit, I will say that there is no need of any itemized account. You can receive the amount you name, $115, on account of outfit, & expend it in any way you choose. I inclose a check which please acknowledge.

With best wishes, very truly yrs,
J. O. Means.

Confidential.

August 16 82

My dear brother Ward:

We were very glad to have you present & your views with reference to the proposed transfer of [illegible] at the meeting of the Pru. Com. yesterday, & were sorry that Dr Thompson was prevented by illness from being present. [illegible] now at [illegible] will be present. [illegible] hope when the [illegible] comes up again [illegible] you be kind enough to [illegible] your feeling [illegible] yesterday? Please to [illegible] you will see Dr Thompson [illegible] Mrs Jenkins [illegible] 19th or 20th next. [illegible] I had long been hoping [illegible] I should have written to [illegible] the neighborhood [illegible] month past. I wanted you to see the report which the Visiting Com. were making.

In haste, very truly yours. J. O. Means.

Rev. Jos. Ward
Pawtucket, R.I.

Confidential.

August 16 82

My dear brother Ward:

We were very glad to have you present your views with reference to the proposed transfer of Santee & Sisseton, at the meeting of the Prud. Com. yesterday, & were sorry that Dr Thompson was prevented by illness from being present & hearing you. Mr Hardy, now at Bar Harbor, will be present I hope when the question comes up again. Why won't you be kind enough to write to me, & thus put on paper for other members of the Com., your feeling upon the matter with the reasons ~~which~~ as they lie in your mind, which you gave us yesterday? Please do this. I trust you will see Dr Thompson. He is at his sister's, Mrs Jenkins', in Falmouth: goes to Bethlehem for the 19th & 20th inst. & then I presume returns. I had long been hoping to see you in Boston, & should have written to you, but heard you were in the neighborhood & expected you any day this month past. I wanted you to see the report which the Visiting Com. were making.

In haste, very truly yours. J. O. Means.

Rev. Jos Ward.
Pawtucket. R.I.

Confidential.

Aug. 18 82

Mr. Jos. W. Steer. Treasurer &c. Santee.

My dear brother: I thank you for yours of the 9th, & congratulate you & Mrs Steer on the baby. You do not intimate whether it is a boy or a girl: either I am sure gives you joy.   Our Com. has no thought of transferring the mission to any other Society. One reason for detaching Santee & Sisseton, which are no longer heathen communities & which are suitable for home missionary care, was that the work may be vigorously prosecuted among the wild Indians. Santee is a boarding school for Indian boys & girls, as you know. Neither of the ministers who have come into our native churches during the last ten years have been furnished by Santee, & there are now no no students there who are looking forward to the ministry. As a boarding school Santee will go on, doubtless, in the future much as in the past. At Sully a boarding school has been asked for: that region seems to find it inconvenient to send scholars to Santee. We hope & expect it to secure the training of Indian preachers of whom many are now needed, in other ways. Sisseton & Santee seem fairly to be called Christian Communities & the Churches are in organic connection with the Presbytery of Dakota & the Genl Assembly of the Presb. Church. No Congregational Home Missy Society therefore can take charge of them.

If, as you say the transfer is made & you do not care to remain, we shall be glad to have you remain treasurer of our mission & do such other work as you may be able to in another part of the field.

We learn directly that Rev. A.L. Riggs has written to the Am. Missy Association at N.Y. asking if they will take Santee, & ~~that~~ if they do, if they will let him have full control of things. I think it fair you should know of this, though it should not be talked about. The whole matter however is in abeyance & nothing has yet been done more than I wrote to you. In view of the possibilities it does not seem wise to spend more just now on the buildings. Cannot room be made in some of the stables for the team & carriage of the lady teachers temporarily? & try & double up in some way for the present.

Very truly yours, with best wishes. J.O. Means.

Aug. 9 82

My dear Brother Ward:–

I was just about to send you word of a letter awaiting you in the Cong. Library; Miss Stone suggests containing money, as it is from Mr Whitcomb. Shall I forward it?

Your letter has just come, & I thank you exceedingly for putting on paper what you so strongly put in words of mouth Tuesday aft. I will not even explain points in which I am sure you misapprehend the purpose of our Com: for I want you to find time to call & talk over the matter at greater length. When can you conveniently do so? Dr Roy of New York was here Wednesday & read a letter the A.M.A. had rec'd from Rev. A.L. R. asking if that society would take Santee & Sisseton, & if so if they would give him full control at Santee. We said to Dr Roy only ~~that~~ the Com. had no thought of relinquishing but expected to prosecute more ~~vigorously~~ our Indian work among the unevangelized

Dakotas, & that as we thought Santee & Sisseton as fairly Christian as the home missionary communities around them, they should be taken in charge by the only home missionary society which could take Presbyterian churches. Mr Riggs has not yet written to us on the subject.

So far as I can see, the stimulus & help of the missionary work of the Am. Board for Dakota churches are in no danger of lapsing, as the thought has been of doing more missionary work. The question in our room has been whether the finished work had not better be treated as finished.

However, all is in abeyance for the present, & the matter will be looked at from all sides before any action one way or another is taken. If I had known you would spend a night here I should not have allowed Dr Burr to carry you to Auburndale.

Very truly yours.

Rev. J. A. Ward of Yankton College. J. O. Means
Pastor & President Y. C.
Pawtucket. R. I.

Aug. 21 82

Rev. C. L. Hall. Kenton. Ohio.

My dear brother

Rec'd yours of the 14th Saturday, & of the 17th this morning & am glad to know of your whereabouts. I am glad to learn that Miss Pike has been as you say, doing good work & enjoying her quiet weeks.

It seems to me you decide wisely in leaving your little girl in Ohio. You will of course miss her greatly, but she could not be so well taken care of at Berthold as with your relatives.

I am sure the Lord does [illegible] greatest laborers for our Indian work. Nothing has been done further than when you were informed with regard to the proposed transfer of the Santee & Sisseton fields, & the missionary work proper seems to be finished. In case a transfer is made, it would not be strange if some at Santee should prefer to continue in the service of the Board elsewhere. Very likely Mr Steer, & from what he writes, would prefer to go elsewhere. Then it would be not strange if you should have Mr & Mrs Byfield & Mr & Mrs Steer, with you. They would not both be *needed* at Sully. In case the transfer should be made, & the Board be relieved of the very great expense of these two stations, our work among the wild Indians would be pushed more vigorously, I trust.

Of course, in any arrangement contemplated with regard to Santee, provision would be made to have scholars from Berthold taught at Santee

if desirable, in the same way
as scholars from Yankton Agency
& other Presb. Stations are now
& have long been taught in our
School. Care will be taken
in any event, in case of a
transfer, that our work at
Berthold & at Sully & among
the wild Indians do not suffer.

Major Kauffman is to be
continued at Ft Berthold. Supt.
From what I have ~~learned~~. the
intrigues against him will
not displace him.

Do not lose heart with regard
to helpers. The Lord's time
is the best time.

Mrs Means would send her
regards if she knew I was writing
to you.

With best wishes, Sincerely yours,

J. O. Means.

Aug. 22 2

Rev. A. L. Riggs. Santee,

My dear brother:-

Miss Paddock called some time since & reported that her physician wished her to go to the hospital for six weeks, & added that he also thought she ought not to resume work for a year. I advised her to go to the hospital & see the result of the treatment: & after that, let the decision be made as to the future. She is now at the hospital. Whether or not she can return safely to Santee cannot be decided for a few weeks. With the force now at Santee, it is desirable to make no additions till Miss Paddock's case is decided. By assistance of Indian women, or in some other way, the gaps may best be filled during this interval.

The annual report for Santee has not yet been received.

Very truly yours,

J. O. Means

Sept. 4 82

Mr H. K. Morris.
Sisseton Agency. Dak. Ty.

My dear brother.—

Your note with the voucher came this morning. You had forgotten, doubtless, that a duplicate voucher is required. I therefore return this that you may prepare a duplicate just like this & have it signed & forward both to me as soon as possible. I am glad to hear you are all well. Mr Brown is away just now, but Dr & Mrs Thompson are quite well. With kind regards to you all.

Very truly yours. J. O. Means.

Sept. 6, en-82.

Rev. Thomas L. Riggs,
Oahe, Dakota Territory.

My dear brother:

Your letter of Aug. 8th and the letter of Aug. 28th, written on the Cheyenne River, have both been received, and were laid before the Committee yesterday.

I am very glad that you have been prospecting still farther for suitable outstations for missionary work on the river, as we talked the matter over when we were with you. There can be no doubt but there are openings for just the kind of work which ought to be done in some of those villages of which you speak, and it is the very kind of work which our Visiting Committee commended most earnestly to the Prudential Committee, and which the Prudential Committee wish to have carried forward. You say, "I think buildings suitable for the immediate work could be put up for $300. or $350. each. The plan would be to man the stations with native help." Please call the attention of the mission to this matter at the Annual Meeting, of wh[illegible] I [illegible] from your first letter you propose to attend, and secure their endorsement to your proposal for opening these new outstations, and in case it seems to the mission hopeful, the Prudential Committee will make the grants for the buildings as soon thereafter as the estimate shall be forwarded; and the work should be pushed on then as rapidly as possible. Meanwhile, or at the same time, I hope the Indian Missionary Society will do what it can to make sure of native helpers for the work.

In your letter of Aug. 8th you deprecate the possible transfer of the Sissiton and Santee stations to the Presbyterian Home Board, with the feeling that in some way such a transfer will interfere with the vigorous prosecution of mission work among the Dakotas. Certainly, let me say, if such a result, in the judgment of the Committee, were likely to follow, there would be no transfer thought of. It does not seem to us that any such consequence ought to follow. You say, "Had proposition been made that soon the educational work at Santee must go alone, it would seem to have been a step in advance. Deliberately to throw away the very sources of our strength as a mission, I cannot regard as progress." The matter does not at all strike us as it does you, in this particular. It seems to us to set off the educational work at Santee, and to put it by itself in an independent position might endanger our mission work, - certainly be much more likely to do so than to have that station and church in charge of a sister society with whom we shall be able to make arrangements so that there need be no interference with our mission work elsewhere. The Indian Missionary Society, you know, now includes all the Indian churches under both societies, and is interested in the extension of mission work in the way of furnishing native helpers, and, to some extent, paying their salaries. That of course will continue - there is no reason why it should not continue - if any transfer of those two stations should be made to the Presbyterian Board. Then also provision will be made, in case there should be a transfer, to have any scholars from our remaining stations taught at Santee precisely on the same terms as now scholars from other agencies are taught there. Of course if the Presbyterian scholars and scholars from other agencies may be educated at Santee, we can make an arrangement, in case there should be any transfer, to have scholars from our remaining stations at Santee, so that there would be no break such as it seems to me you are apprehensive of.

And this leads me to say in regard to the questions you ask at the close of your letter of Aug. 8th, namely, "Would the Board endorse a movement for the endowment of the Santee school, and would the Board encourage a proposition from the mission, looking to a transfer of the Dakota mission to the A.M.A. or to an independent society existing solely for Indian work," that the judgment of the Prudential Committee is unanimously and decidedly in the negative. It does not seem to the Committee wise to think of endowing the Santee school and making it independent in that way of the Board. To yield the $10,000. outlay for repairs and running expenses at Santee, as for this year for instance, would require an endowment fund of more than $150,000. to start with. As to the transfer of the Dakota mission to any society, we see no reason therefor. Such a thought has not been entertained by the Committee. We do not think our work among the Indians is yet finished.

We have been engaged in it for a long period of years. We do not see any reason for inviting another missionary society to take it out of our hands, and we see no special reason why an independent society should be created for such a purpose while there are sufficient organizations capable of doing the work now existing. The reason why the Visiting Committee recommended, and the Prudential Committee thought it wise, to transfer two *stations* of our Dakota mission to another society, was because the work as among the heathen in those stations seems to us completed; and inasmuch as those communities are distinctively Presbyterian, the proper society, the proper home Board to take them, seems evidently the Presbyterian Home Board. If it prove on farther consideration not desirable to make this transfer to the Presbyterian Home Board, then I presume undoubtedly the Prudential Committee would not think of having any transfers made to any society.

I make these explanations that you may be assured there is, and has been from the first, not the slightest thought of withdrawing from our work among the Dakota Indians.

We propose to continue and enlarge it in the regions in which it seems, as you indicate in your last letter, there are openings among the wilder tribes, where proper missionary work now needs to be done. As I repeat, we do not see but that all the facilities which now exist for help from the Christian Indian communities at Santee and Sisseton will be available through their Home Miss'y Society for the work in new places in connection with our Board, after a transfer, as at present, in case one should be decided upon. Let me say nothing is as yet decided upon – nothing has been done farther than I wrote to you.

I direct this to Oahe, as I presume by this time you have returned from the Cheyenne River.

With best wishes to you all there, and with very pleasant remembrances of our interesting visit,

Very truly yours,

J. O. Means

American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions.
Congregational House, 1 Somerset Street,
Boston, Sept 11. 1882

Mr. T. C. L. Morris:

Sisseton Agency
Dakota Terr.

My dear Brother: Yours from Devil's Lake has just come. Rather inquiry what is preferable as to the name of that for the school. Dr Riggs suggested ~~that~~ as it was not likely any arrangement for a change would be made, if one was made at all, so as to go into effect before the time when the Goodwill School should be reopened, the Pr'd. Com. should make an appropriation to run the school until the end of the year. It probably escaped him that the appropriation is already made for the year ending Dec. 31. 1882. You understand, of course, that the year for which appropriations are made is from Jan 1 to December inclusive.

Mrs Morris wrote June 14 asking if she might have an appeal made to outside friends for money with which to erect a new girls boarding school. I replied July 3. Please let me know whether my letter was received.

Very truly yours, J. O. Means.

Sept. 13. 82

Rev. C. L. Hall.
Flandreau. D. T.

My dear brother: Yours from Devil's Lake has just come. - By the way, what is preferable as to the name of that place? Mini Wakan, you use in this letter, & still another name is used in some documents. I am glad your visit there was so successful. There seems to be no question that there should be a native teacher there. If, as you intimate, Daniel Renville can & will go there, no question need be entertained as to his support. If, as you say, the native Society cannot support him, undoubtedly the Am. Board will. Please have action taken upon this matter at the mission meeting, & if it is thought best, have an item placed in the estimates for this object. Or, if any competent native teacher can be secured in case Mr Renville cannot go, provision will be readily made for the expense. May the Lord guide you & bless you in the mission meeting!

Very truly yours J. O. Means.

Sept 16 '82

Miss M. S. Cook
Indian Department
Washington, D.C.

My dear Miss Cook:

Will you please explain to me a matter in the Report of the Com. of Indian affairs?

It is stated that the present liabilities of the government for "limited annuities to be paid in a limited number of years" is $9.680.000; for annuities of a permanent character, $350.000; for amounts held in trust on which 5 per cent. is annually paid, $6.120.000.

Five per cent. on this last sum is $30.600; + $350.000 + 9.680.000 = $10.060.600.

Is the meaning that at present & for a limited number of years, annuities to this amount of $10.060.60 are due to various tribes?

If I am wrong in my interpretation of the report, will you be kind enough to set me right & greatly oblige

Yours very truly

J. O. Means

Sec'y Am. Board.

Sept 21 82

Sept 21 82

Hon. H. Price.
Commissioner of Indian Affairs, &c. &c.
Washington, D.C.
Dear Sir:

I have the honor to enclose vouchers in duplicate for the instruction of Indian Children at our school at the Sisseton Agency for the term ending June 30. 1882. The amount due is $343.50.

Very Respectfully
Yours &c.
J. O. Means.
Sec. Am. Board.

Rev. A. L. Riggs.
Santee Agency, Neb.
My dear Brother, I wrote a few [illegible] She has now been advised [illegible] not to resume work [illegible] as it will [illegible] The Committee [illegible] if you will [illegible] of some of the arrangement [illegible]
[illegible]
J. O. Means.

The Catalogue of the Society [illegible] contains several names which have not been [illegible]

Mr Robbins has just come in on his return. It is a hard thing for him to leave the work in which he was so much interested. I trust he will be ready to resume it after a years change

Mr Robbins has just come in. [illegible] must leave Santee. I hope it will

Sept 21. 82

Rev. A. L. Riggs.
Santee Agency, Neb.

My dear brother. I wrote a few word Aug. 22 about Miss Paddock. She has now been advised by her physician not to resume work till the first of January. For the interval, as it will be so long, Miss Webb, as you see, should be assisted by some one. As soon as you find a temporary substitute, please let us know her recommendations & character, & on what terms she is to be employed. The Committee will make the necessary grant, if, as will doubtless be the case, they approve of the arrangement, to meet the expense.

Very truly Yours.
J. O. Means.

Mr Robbins has just come in on his return. It is a hard thing for him to leave the work in which he was so much interested. I trust he will be ready to resume it after a years change.

Sept. 21 82

Mr Jos. W. Steer, Treasurer &c.

Santee Agency Nebraska.

My dear brother.

Mr Ward has handed me your letter of the 15th, in which you inquire about paying Miss Paddock's successor. Miss Paddock is not to draw salary for the present. But the amount not drawn by her lapses into the treasury. Whoever may be secured to render service in her place should be at once reported, & the sum necessary to meet the cost, & the Com. will at once make a grant. By the rules that which is voted as salary for a teacher – for Miss Paddock, for instance – cannot be diverted for another individual.

The Catalogue of the School, just received, contains several names which have not been reported here. No appropriation has been made for "Reuben Cash, Sup. of Carpenter Shop", for instance. The appropriation for Mr Wold was for only half the year.

Mr Robbins has just come in. 'Tis hard that he must leave Santee: I hope it will be for only a year.

As soon as matters now under consideration touching Santee shall be decided I shall write to you more at length. I am sorry to hear you were not here at Flandreau. — Miss Paddock is decidedly gaining, I think.

With kind regards to Mrs Steen.
Very truly yours,
J. O. Means.

The appropriation was made "for Miss Shepard's successor", so that it is according to the rule to pay the one who fills her place from the amount voted for that purpose.
J. O. M.

Private.

Sept. 22 82

Rev. Jos Ward. Yankton, Dak.

My dear brother.

I thank you for yours of the 18th, just received. Nothing more about the transfer of the Santee & Sisseton Stations has been done since you were here. Last week an overture was laid before us by Dr Strieby & others in behalf of the Ex. Com. of the Am. Mi. A., to the effect that they wish to relinquish their work in Africa & all foreign work, & would like to take the Dakota Mission if we wish to relinquish it. We had a very frank & full statement, & numerous questions were asked & answered. Yesterday the Pru. Com. had a special meeting in which the general matter was canvassed. The Ex. Com. of the A. M. A. wish to do nothing more till after their annual meeting Oct 24. We are so occupied in the closing days of the mission year that nothing can be done. If legal obstructions & some evident practical difficulties can be surmounted, as I hope they may be, in due time I think a change in the direction of the Overture from the A. M. A. will be made.

Meanwhile, I have written to Dr Strieby a letter, & a report is prepared, ~~both the~~ sub=mitted to the Prud. Com. in a couple of hours (which I hardly doubt will be approved) to the effect that, trusting a result shall finally be reached in accordance with the overture of the Ex. Com. of the A. M. A., we shall append to our special report already prepared on Indian matters a statement of the overture just received, & suggest ~~that [illegible]~~ as all the elements for a decision are not yet before us & cannot be till after the annual meeting of the A. M. A., the matter be referred by the Gen. Board with full powers to the Prudential Committee, or to a Special Committee. — This is quite private, & if communicated at all only with dis=cretion. I write in great haste. I was in hopes to see you again & was greatly disappointed not to see [illegible].

With best wishes, Very truly yours,

J. O. Means.

Sept. 22 82

Rev. Henry M. Bissell.
Harford, Cortland Co. New York

My dear brother.

I am glad to write Reverend before your name. May the Lord bless you abundantly as a preacher of the gospel.

Come to Portland by all means, as you propose. On arriving go directly to the Com. of Entertainment & ask for two of the places reserved at Dr Clark's request for Missionaries. If you have any trouble about it, find me or Dr Clark & all will be made right. — The matter of your traveling expenses from Elmira westward will be arranged when you come to Portland.

I rejoice in your earnest desire to be in the work. I hope it is to be an earnest of the way in which you will be able to do something to lift up the degraded.

But for the fact that I shall leave Boston Oct. 3, & that you will need go right through to Portland, I should insist upon your coming to my house. With kind regards to Mrs Bissell.

Very truly yours.

J. O. Means

Oct. 2d 82

Mr Jos. W. Steer.

Leas. &c Dakota Mission. Santee.

My dear Mr Steer.

Yours of Sept. 28th has just reached me. The estimates were forwarded by Rev. Thos L. Riggs from Flandreau & reached me Saturday. For Santee I notice that Mr Riggs' salary is increased $200, to $1100. He has made a request for a special grant to replenish furniture &c. of $400. Also, there has been a grant of $100. yearly towards the education of his son. Are these sums to be in addition to the salary asked of $1100.? Your salary is reduced from $900, to $800, I notice.

If there are any additional explanations to be made about Santee or other estimates, we should be glad to have them by next week, as we begin to work upon the estimates as soon as the annual meeting is over. We go to Portland tomorrow morning & are now very busy in attending to the last things.

With best wishes to Mrs Steer & to you all.

Very truly Yours.

J. O. Means.

Oct. 11 82

Rev. Dr M. E. Strieby
Secy A.M.A. &c &c. 56 Reade St. New York.

My dear Brother.

Our new Prudential Com. organized yesterday & at once appointed Rev. Dr A.C. Thompson, C.C. Burr, Esq. & myself a Committee to proceed to New York & confer with your Executive Committee in reference to the proposals you laid before us Sept. 14. We are ready to visit you at once, & I have so telegraphed to you. If a reply comes from you in season, we will go on tonight, or go when you wish us to come.

It was extremely gratifying at Portland to find all of one mind as to the desirableness of such an arrangement as is proposed, while it was recognized that there are practical difficulties. The report of the Indian Com. & the recommendation they made was not accurately reported in the Portland papers. The Com. reported & the Board voted to leave the whole matter in the hands of the Prud. Com. with power, with the strong recommendation & hope that if practical obstacles could be removed the arrangement would be made. I trust & believe it will be found practicable.

In haste, Very truly Yours,

J. O. Means.

My dear brother

Rev. H. M. Bissell came to Portland and Boston last week, preparatory to his journey to Dakota. All his preparations were made, and his furniture on the way to Oahe, but he stated that he had received a letter from you, on account of which he did not feel that he could become connected [illegible] mission and asked to be released, and to be designated, if possible, to some other field. The Prudential Committee, of course, cannot insist upon a missionary's going to a station to which he has such insuperable objections as Mr. Bissell expressed, and therefore Mr. Bissell's request was granted, and at the meeting of the Committee Tuesday his designation to the Dakota mission was revoked. I do not know the contents of your letter to Mr. Bissell, but it evidently distressed him very much (over)

Oct. 12, 82.

Rev. T. L. Riggs,
Oahe, Hughes Co. D. T.

My dear brother:

Rev. H. M. Bissell came to Portland and Boston last week, preparatory to his journey to Dakota. All his preparations were made, and his furniture on the way to Oahe; but he stated that he had received a letter from you, on account of which he did not feel that he could become connected with the Dakota mission, and asked to be released, and to be designated, if possible, to some other field. The Prudential Committee, of course, cannot insist upon a missionary's going to a station to which he has such insuperable objections as Mr. Bissell expressed, and therefore Mr. Bissell's request was granted, and at the meeting of the Committee Tuesday his designation to the Dakota mission was revoked. I do not know the contents of your letter to Mr. Bissell, but it evidently distressed him very much (over)

82

I have received your Minutes of the meeting of the mission, and the Estimates for the year 1883. In view of the condition of things with regard to our Dakota mission at present no changes of any kind will be made. No further grants of money for ordinary purposes or for the year 1883 will be made. In case the mission is taken in charge by some other Society, it is fair and just that the whole future be left open for them to arrange as they think best. The matters to which the attention of the Prudential Committee is called in the Minutes and memorials of your mission meeting will be laid before the Prudential Committee in due time.

Very truly yours,

J. O. Means.

Oct. 13, 82.

Miss Louise M. Irvine,
Oahe, Hughes Co., D. T.

My dear Miss Irvine:

What will be your choice in case the Dakota mission is transferred to the care of the American Missionary Association? The missionaries at Santee have all expressed themselves as desirous of continuing in the work under appointment of that Society, in case the Dakota mission should be transferred to them. It is, of course, left free for each missionary to express her own wishes with regard to it. If we make an arrangement, we should wish to say, "Such and such missionaries desire to continue in the work under your care, and we wish them to be received by you in the transfer." If you should not wish to continue in the work under their care, please signify the fact to me, as in case we pass over the Dakota mission to the American Missionary Association, there will be no Indian work for us to do. We can-

not designate you to any Indian work, but if you desire to be designated to some other field in care of the Board, please signify the same.

I trust you have had a pleasant vacation, and have gone back to your work refreshed and ready for the labors of the autumn and winter. When we were at Oahe, there was not the remotest thought that any change would come about by which your relations to the Board would be affected, and we hoped that great things would be accomplished by you in connection with the Board in coming years. What may now be finally decided upon is uncertain; but it is proper that you should know what is possible, and we desire to know your wishes, so that in case a transfer is made, we shall know what to say to the Association.

With best wishes,

Very truly yours,

J. O. Means.

Oct. 13. 82

Miss M. C. Collins,
Oahe, Hughes Co. D. T.

My dear Miss Collins:

What will be your choice in case the Dakota mission is transferred to the care of the American Missionary Association? The missionaries at Santee have all expressed themselves as desirous of continuing in the work under appointment of that Society, in case the Dakota mission should be transferred to them. It is, of course, left free for each missionary to express her own wishes with regard to it. If we make an arrangement, we should wish to say, "Such and such missionaries desire to continue in the work under your care, and we wish them to be received by you in the transfer." If you should not wish to continue in the work under their care, please signify the fact to me, as in case we pass over the Dakota Mission to the American Missionary Association, there will be no Indian work for us to do. We can-

not designate you to any Indian work, but if you desire to be designated to some other field in care of the Board, please signify the same.

I trust you have had a pleasant vacation, and have gone back to your work refreshed and ready for the labors of the autumn and winter. When we were at Oahe, there was not the remotest thought that any change would ~~make~~ come about by which your relations to the Board would be affected, and we hoped that great things would be accomplished by you in connection with the Board in coming years. What may now be finally decided upon is uncertain; but it is proper that you should know what is possible, and we desire to know your wishes, so that in case a transfer is made, we shall know what to say.

With best wishes,

Very truly yours,

J. O. Means

Oct. 13. 82.

Mr. and Mrs. Willis K. Morris,
Sisiton Agency, D. T.

My dear Mr. and Mrs. Morris:

In case the Prudential Committee, as authorized by the American Board at the recent annual meeting at Portland, shall transfer the whole Dakota mission to the American Missionary Association, do you wish to continue in the service as you are, and enter upon the work in care of the American Missionary Association?

I write because in all cases in which missions are transferred, it is left with the individual missionary to remain or not. Of course the Committee can only transfer the mission. The relation of the missionary to the Board is a personal relation, and can only be terminated when the missionary desires it, or when the Committee think desirable. In the arrangement which may be made possibly with the American Missionary Association, we wish to say to them who of our missionaries desire to continue as they are, and to make provision that they be continued in any arrangement that may be made. In case an arrangement is made of the nature I have intimated, the American Board will have no Indian work, and, therefore, there will be no service to which we could designate you. It is proper that this should be said to you, as it may influence your decision. You understand, of course, that it is left free for you as you think on the whole most likely to be pleasant for yourselves and to give you the best sphere of usefulness, to continue as you are or not.

What the final result of conferences with the Am. Miss'y Association will be it is impossible as yet to tell. It is my impression, however, that in some way matters can be so arranged that the Association will take charge of the whole Dakota mission. The Committee will not think, in any event, of dividing it and of passing over a part to one Society and a part to another.

We have just returned from our annual meeting at Portland, which has been a very large and earnest meeting. We hope for the best results.

Very truly yours, J. O. Means.

Oct. 13, 82.

Rev. C. L. Hall,
Ft. Berthold.

My dear brother:

I have written to Miss Pike and Miss Ward to know whether they desire to remain in the Indian work in case our Dakota mission shall be transferred to the American Missionary Association. In all cases of the transfer of missions, it is left to each missionary to decide whether or not they will continue when the change is made, or whether they prefer to withdraw. I do not ask the question of you, as we understand from your communications with gentlemen of the American Missionary Association at New York, and from other sources, that you are desirous of having the Dakota mission transferred to the Am. Missy Association, and will be glad to continue a missionary in their commission at Ft. Berthold. Our Board at the annual meeting at Portland last week, committed to the Pru-dential Committee with power the whole question, expressing the hope that unless obstacles are insuperable an arrangement should be made with the A. M. A. What the result will be we cannot tell just at present.

Dr. and Mrs. Thompson and Mr. Burr are very well, and we speak frequently about our pleasant visit to Ft. Berthold

In the new turn which matters have taken, nothing will be done by the Prudential Committee as to making appropriations or engaging new teachers or missionaries. If the Dakota mission is to be in charge of a new Society, it would not be right to make arrangements for the future which that Society may wish to have fully in its own care, so that all matters will remain just as they are until this question is decided. It will probably be decided soon after the meeting of the Association at Cleveland, the 24th inst.

With best wishes,

Very truly yours,

J. O. Means.

Oct. 14 82

Rev. Dr M. E. Strieby,
Secy Am. Miss. Asso. 56 Reade St. New York.
My dear Dr Strieby:

We reached the Fall River Boat in season last evening & after a rough passage arrived here safely this morning.

I think we did not fail to make evident in our interview yesterday that our Prud. Com. are sincerely desirous of acting in the direction outlined in your overture, provided the grave difficulties in the way can be overcome. I am afraid they seem more grave to me than before our interview.

We had had no thought of relinquishing our Indian work; we were expecting & were prepared to continue it & to press into new fields among the wild bands. But for your overture, I suppose we should have gone forward with the contemplated arrangement of transferring to the Presb. Bd of Home Missions the two stations where the work of a Foreign Miss. Society seems completed, & for the reason that it is completed. A subordinate consideration was the pecuniary consideration. We should effect at once a saving of more than two thirds the expense of the mission; what we might hope to receive for builds &c. would probably meet the expense of the remaining stations for a couple of years, with enlarged work at those stations; & by pushing work in among the pagan Indians our contribution from friends of Indian work would not be likely to fall off but to increase. In a word, we hoped to do a better work in evangelizing the pagan bands, & have substantial relief imperatively needed in our treasury.

The plan we have been considering involves, as I understand it, that the Am. Board confine itself to work abroad; make no solicitations save for work abroad; & place in the hands of the A.M.A. the property at its disposal for Indian work & turn over to the A.M.A. any gifts which may come to its treasury for Indian work. The A.M.A. in the same way confines its work to this country & places property & funds which it has or may receive for work in Africa or elsewhere abroad at the disposal of the Am. Board to be used for the purposes for which it is given.

We can transfer our Indian Mission to you; you are ready & even desirous to undertake it with your other work. We are already largely engaged in work in Africa. We can use to good advantage whatever property & funds you can place at the disposal of the Board: but not at the stations where you have been working & about which there are many hallowed associations. [illegible] work in Africa.

This difficulty appeared in our first Conference at Boston. At the close of it our Com. had an impression that you had reached the conclusion that the work at Mendi would be terminated as soon as it wisely could be: either that if it was transferred to the Am. Board the Board would provide for the Churches & schools in some other way, or that if the Board could not take it, the A.M.A. would make some other provision for it.

If the Association does not find the way clear, all things considered, to have the Mendi Mission closed — practically closed — as soon as it wisely can be, [illegible] then of course all the property & funds are needed, & I judge additional contributions must somehow & somewhere be obtained. But of course, any carrying out of what we have been talking about means that, at once we cease soliciting & receiving for Indian, & the A.M.A. cease soliciting & receiving for African work: except each to hand over to the other society what may come in spontaneously.

I trust you will devise something in your meeting Monday to propose as an honorable & just arrangement in which all rights & interests of the two Societies shall be secured.

Will you please ask Mr Hubbard if he will send me a memorandum — so far as is possible — of the expenditures in detail of the Dakota Mission for the year just closing; & whether there are changes or have been changes to make a difference in the estimates, suppose matters go on as they are, for the year now beginning?

May the Lord give you and give us all wisdom to arrange these great matters intrusted to us so that His Kingdom & glory shall be magnified.

Very sincerely yours

J. O. Means.

Copy sent to -

Miss Sophronia B. Pike.
Ft Berthold D.

Oct. 13 82.

Miss Eda L. Ward,
Ft. Berthold, Dak.

My dear Miss Ward:

What will be your choice in case the Dakota mission is transferred to the care of the American Missionary Association? The missionaries at Santee have all expressed themselves as desirous of continuing in the work under appointment of that Society, in case the Dakota mission should be transferred to them. It is, of course, left free for each missionary to express her own wishes with regard to it. If we make an arrangement, we should wish to say, "Such and such missionaries desire to continue in the work under your care, and we wish them to be received by you in the transfer." If you should not wish to continue in the work under their care, please signify the fact to me, as in case we pass over the Dakota mission to the American Missionary Association, there will be no Indian work for us to do. We can-

not designate you to any Indian work, but if you desire to be designated to some other field in care of the Board, please signify the same.

I trust you have had a pleasant vacation, and have gone back to your work refreshed and ready for the labors of the autumn and winter. When we were at Fort Berthold, there was not the remotest thought that any change would come about by which your relations to the Board would be affected, and we hoped that great things would be accomplished by you in connection with the Board in coming years. What may now be finally decided upon is uncertain; but it is proper that you should know what is possible, and we desire to know your wishes so that in case a transfer is made, we shall know what to say to the Association.

With best wishes,

Very truly yours,

J. O. Means.

Oct. 16 82

Rev. A. L. Riggs:
Santee Agency, Neb.
My dear brother.

Yours of Oct. 12 has just been received.

The question of transferring the Dakota Mission to the Am. Miss'y Association is now under consideration, & until it is decided it does not seem proper to introduce any new teachers into the school at Santee. The best thing practicable must be done under the circumstances. Mr Robbins is absent certainly for a year. His salary has stopped & it cannot be diverted to pay any one else. As for Miss Gloson, your letter is the first intelligence of her absence. As she has not requested leave of absence, the proper way is for her to pay whoever temporarily takes her place. Until she is formally relieved she draws her salary. She may now leave in the hands of the treasurer enough to make her place good. In the present state of things no man should be introduced into Mr Robbins place.

Very truly yours. J. O. Means.

Oct. 23 82

Rev. A. L. Riggs. Santee Agency, Neb.

My dear brother.

My letter of the 16th crossed on the way probably yours of the 18th, as you see answers it. In the condition in which matters now are, we should not feel justified in appointing any one to Mr Robbins's place. It ought to be kept quite free with the Com. of the A.M.A. or of any other society, to make such arrangements as they wish; & to bring in new teachers now might seem like forestalling their choice, & cause them embarrassment. Therefore, only such temporary appointment as can be obtained, without bringing persons from a distance, & with the distinct understanding that it is to be merely for the time being, is allowable under the circumstances. The Com. desire to fill no vacancies & to make no engagements looking to the filling of vacancies, until it is decided whether the A.M.A. or other Society may take charge of the Dakota mission or of Santee station.. I return Mr Pratt's letter herewith.

Very truly yours. J. O. Means.

Oct. 23 82

Rev. T. L. Riggs.
Oahe, Dak. Terry
My dear brother.

Yours of Oct. 7th is just recd. I advised Mr. Biffle to write to you himself & explain his position. Conferences have been held, as probably you know, between the Ex. Com. of the A. M. A. & the Prud. Com., with reference to their taking charge of the whole Dakota Mission. In the possibility of such a transfer, it is necessary to refrain from any movements which might cause embarrassment to those who may have other plans & views as to modes of conducting the work.

Oct 28 82

Mr Jos H. Steer:

Mr [illegible] has decided to go to the West Micronesia Mission & sails from New York next week. I was greatly pleased with him & his wife.

With best wishes to the ladies & yourself. Very truly yours

J. O. Means.

Rev [illegible] Agency, Dak. T.

My dear Mr [illegible]

Yours of 20th was rec'd yesterday. The [illegible] appropriation for the [illegible] we [illegible] from Mr [illegible] letter, that there [illegible] asked for by Mr Riggs in [illegible] before the Com. yesterday & [illegible] emergency a special grant of the sum you ask for was made, namely $90.

I am very glad you are taking hold so vigorously. In the transition state in which matters touching the mission are at present some inconveniences are inevitable. Mr Riggs wrote desiring to engage some new teachers & have them go on at once. It seems very clear to us that it is not right to those who [illegible] assume the management for us to bring in new teachers, & that vacancies must be left to be filled hereafter. I have so written to Mr Riggs. It cannot be very long before the question is settled. Meanwhile, we must

Oct. 25 82

Mr Jos. H. Steer:

Leaving ve. Santee Agency. Dak. T.

My dear Mr Steer.

Yours of the 20th was read yesterday. I am sorry the appropriation for the Boy's Cottage falls short so much. You understand, from Mr Ward's letters, that there are $243. to be accounted for by Mr Riggs in due time. The matter was laid before the Com. yesterday & to meet the emergency a special grant of the sum you ask for was made, namely $90.

I am very glad you ~~are~~ taking hold so vigorously. In the transition state in which matters touching the mission are at present some inconveniences are inevitable. Mr Riggs wrote desiring to engage some new teachers & have them go on at once. It seems very clear to us ~~that~~ it is not right to those who may assume the management for us to bring in new teachers, & that vacancies must be left to be filled hereafter. I have so written to Mr Riggs. It cannot be very long before the question is settled. Meanwhile, we must ask all to do as well as they can.

Miss Paddock was called home suddenly last week by intelligence of the death of her mother. Miss Paddock was looking very well.

With best wishes to Mrs Steer & all your associates,

Very truly yours,
J. O. Means.

Nov. 8 /82

Mr E. Steer

[illegible]

Your letter of Oct. 28 [illegible] the Prudential Committee. According to your request, they authorize Mr Steer to draw money ([illegible]) for pay of temporary assistance in the School in view of Mr Robbins's absence.

Very truly yours
J. O. Means

Dr Clark, I am sorry to say, is in such ill health that he is obliged to leave for a while & goes to Clifton Springs, New York.

Please communicate to Mr Steer the action of the Prud. Com., so that I may be saved another letter.

J. O. Means.

Nov. 26 Nov. 8 82

Rev. A. L. Riggs
Santee Agency. D. K.

My dear brother:

Your letter of Oct. 28 was received Nov. 3, & yesterday laid before the Prudential Committee. According to your request, the Com. authorise Mr Steer to draw ninety dollars ($90.) for pay of temporary assistance in the school in view of Mr Robbins's absence.

Very truly yours,

J. O. Means.

Dr Clark, I am sorry to say, is in such ill health that he is obliged to leave for a while & goes to Clifton Springs, New York.

Please communicate to Mr Steer the action of the Prud. Com., so that I may be saved another letter.

J. O. Means.

Nov. 26. 82

Rev. Dr M. E. Strieby.
Secy Am. Missy Assocn &c.
56 Reade St. New York City.

My dear Doctor Strieby.

I thank you very much for the telegram received yesterday. It came most opportunely. Your letter & the telegram were laid before the Prudential Committee & I read to them the private letter I had written you & the telegram I sent Saturday. The Com. approved of the letter & telegram I sent you, & recommended that negotiations be continued on the understanding:- 1. That the Am. Missy Assocn will discontinue all foreign missionary work & all appeals to the Churches for aid in support of foreign missions, including discontinuance of appeals for John Brown Steamer. 2. That certain property in the Mendi Mission be sold when a satisfactory price can be obtained & the proceeds be given to the Am. Board for its African work; and that at the end of five years, or sooner, the income of the Avery endowment Fund be appropriated to Missions in Africa through the American

Board. 3. That the Dakota Mission with all the property therein belonging to the Am. Board be transferred to the Am. Missy association.

Such of the missionaries as desire to continue in the Mission of course you will take up. If you take the Mission, I suppose, of course.

Hoping for a speedy arrangement & with no misunderstandings to hinder a delay

Very truly yours.

J. O. Means.

Nov. 11 82.

Rev. Dr. M. E. Strieby, Sec. &c. A. M. A.
56 Reade St. New York City.

My dear brother:

I thank you for your letter of Nov. 6th, enclosing the letter to you by Dr. Riggs of Oct. 30th.

First let me speak with regard to the letter of Dr. Riggs. He inquires of you, "How much of the Dakota mission has the Prudential Committee proposed to turn over to you?" In reference to this matter you understand, I suppose, that if the arrangement proves practicable we propose to transfer to you our whole Dakota mission, the schools and churches so far as they are under our management and control. Dr. Riggs adds, "You are probably aware that as early as June last Dr. Means went to New York and offered to turn over to the Presbyterian Bd of Home Missions the whole of the Board's work at Sisseton and Santee. This was communicated to us by Dr. Means, and we were asked to approve of it." Of course, as you understand, Dr. Riggs is quite incorrect in this statement.

As you know, we have not "offered" anything we have made no proposal to our friends of the Presbyterian Board. I simply went to New York and sounded them with regard to the matter, stating distinctly that we made no proposition and were not prepared even to make any;- that my whole conversation with them was confidential, and that we should take no further steps until we had communicated with our missionaries, as in courtesy it seemed proper that we should do, to give them an opportunity to express their views. I hardly need say, again, that no proposition has been made by us to the Presbyterian Board. They perfectly understand it so.

I enclose to you a copy of the letter addressed to Dr. Riggs, a copy of which was forwarded to each of our other missionaries, on the matter. We simply thought it due to them to let them know what we were thinking of. You will notice in the letter that we do not state that we have made a proposal, but, on the contrary, that if proposals shall be made, this and that will seem proper to us. You will see also that we do not communicate the matter to the mission as a body, much less ask their approval of it. In fact, it was a matter with which the mission as a body had no action to take. Whenever a mission is transferred ~~[illegible]~~ by our Board, the body which manages the mission has the sole determination of what shall be done. The individual missionaries are communicated with in order that if on a transfer they do not choose to retain their relations to the new body they may say so, and then other provision will be made for them. Dr. Riggs' statement as to what the mission have done indicates that they suppose themselves called to do what they were not asked to do, and have no power to do. The mission seems to have gone forward as though an arrangement had been made and they were asked to confirm it. They seem to have taken action as though their action of itself was conclusive. I repeat, no arrangement had been made, and no arrangement was communicated to the mission, no action of the mission was invited, and no approval of the mission was requisite, in one direction or the other. More than that, by the rules of our Manual, which is in the hands of all our missionaries; "The decision of a mission on questions that may arise in regard to their own proceedings and conduct in which the mission is interested are subject to the revision of the Prudential Committee". If the mission had taken properly such action as Dr. Riggs indicates, it would have no force until it was communicated to and approved by the Prudential Committee. I need not say that has not been done in this case, and if any such action of the mission were submitted to the Prudential Committee, I say, on my own authority, of course, as I am writing this letter as you wrote yours personally, the Prudential Committee certainly would not approve of the action. Our schools and churches in the Dakota mission have been established and supported by the Board, the individual missionaries having personal supervision on the spot. Our relation to the churches at Sisiton has been, that they were organized by our missionaries, have been under our fostering care, have been reported regularly to us, have requested and received grants of money, and their pastors have now for many years received a regular allowance from our treasury. We have had no communication from them indicating that they wished this to cease. Whatever action has been taken, doubtless it has been unintentionally irregular, and at best can only mean that those churches no longer expect to have a part of their expenses paid by the American Board. Suppose, as is possible, our whole negotiation with you drops where it is: what would be the position of those churches and the Sisiton station? I ask the question that you may see how strangely the mission seems to have acted in the premises; and I will only add, and it is repeating what I have already said, that if we are able to overcome practical difficulties and make the arrangement we have talked about, we shall transfer to A. M. A. our whole Dakota mission in the same form, with the same rights in all particulars as we have held it for the last series of years.

With regard to the African missions I will say that it struck us that the last resolution adopted by the Association would preclude our entertaining further the question of taking the Mendi mission. As we have said several times, we should not feel justified in taking the Mendi mission without a distinct understanding that as soon as was practicable it should be wound up by us, or our work there cease. The closing resolution of the Association contains this clause "that it be made certain that the Mendi mission be in some way sustained hereafter." We have supposed that this meant that we could not take it unless we should engage to sustain it hereafter, and therefore that we need not think of that matter. Personally, I may confess, I am sorry the resolution was passed in this form. I hoped full liberty would be left with your Executive Committee to pass over the Mendi mission to us without such condition, and that then we should take up the question anew and see whether anything could be done by us with reference to it.

Further, I will say personally, that the matter having now reached the stage it has, it seems to me there is no question but we should go forward and transfer the Indian mission to you, although we do not receive what I had hoped we might be able to receive, and what we greatly need just at this time to use of funds for our other African work. I do not think the matter would have been entertained by the Committee unless when you were here it seemed as though the Mendi mission might be closed in any event, and the income of funds at once turned into African work in another form. We greatly need for our training school at Natal at this very moment an appropriation which I hoped we should be able to secure in this arrangement.

I will not add anything more at present, as I suppose as soon as practicable we shall have some official communications upon the matters.

Most cordially reciprocating your kind expressions of regard,

Very truly yours,

J. O. Means.

Nov. 29 82

Miss M. C. Collins.
Oahe, Dakota.

My dear Miss Collins.

Your reply to my letter, asking whether you desire to continue in the Indian work under the Am. Miss'y association; in case the Dakota Mission is transferred to ~~that~~ association; is such that I do not know your wish.

You say, "If the association will do thus & so, I wish to continue; if not, not." — The association has quite a long history. If now you are not satisfied with its methods & do not wish to become a missionary under its care, please let me know. It is necessary to us, in case an arrangement for transfer is made — it is not yet consummated, though negotiations are in progress — to say to the associations ~~that~~ certain missionaries, naming them, wish to continue in the work & come under their care. You are quite free to remain or not, of course.

With best wishes.

Very truly Yours.
J. O. Means.

Nov. 18th 82.

Rev. Dr. M. E. Strieby Sec. A. M. A.
56 Reade St. New York City.

Boston Nov. 18, 1882—

Rev— Dr— M. E. Strieby
56 Reade St. New York, N. Y.

Questions too grave for Secretaries Committee Tuesday will probably say the Association should agree positively to discontinue foreign work and appeals including appeals for John Brown Steamer and to appropriate after five years Avery income solely through American Board. Explanations in letter. J. O. Means

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is the churches &c. Also we suppose your intention is that the funds for the John Brown steamer be given as they are, and that nothing

Nov. 18th 82.

Rev. Dr. M. E. Strieby Sec. A. M. A.
56 Reade St. New York City.

My dear Bro:

I have just sent you a telegram in reply to your letter of Nov. 17th, containing the action of your Committee on the transfer of missions. The questions are too complicated for the Secretaries even to express an opinion upon, but I have said in the telegram some things which it seems clear to us the Prudential Committee will say.

The first vote contains a conditional clause which would make it possible in a few years for the A. M. A. to enter upon foreign work. You certainly do not intend that. We cannot tell what providential changes may come about, and it seems in accordance with the view of both the Board and the Association to say simply that the Association will discontinue all foreign mission work and all appeals to the churches &c. Also we suppose your intention is that the funds for the John Brown steamer be given as they are, and that nothing more be asked of our common constituency for the steamer.

But there is in the second vote the condition that "the steamer be built" which may lead to the supposition that it would be proper still to solicit funds for the completion of the steamer from our common constituency. Our understanding is that you do not intend or wish that; but for the sakes of making it clear to any one who should read the votes, we suggested in the telegram that the first vote be modified to read that ~~it~~ the A.M.A. "will accept the Dakota mission of the Board and will discontinue all foreign mission work and all appeals to the churches for aid in the support of foreign missions, including appeals for John Brown steamer."

The third vote seems to render it altogether uncertain whether at any time the income of the Avery fund should be appropriated to African missions through the American Board. If that is the understanding and wish of the A. M. A., it puts the whole matter in an entirely different light. If some other missionary society may be created or selected for that purpose, or if the United Brethren may indefinitely receive the income of the

Avery fund, then the whole matter needs reconsideration by us. We had supposed that in any arrangement made, after a certain term of years – we hoped it would not be so long as five years – you proposed to appropriate to African work through the American Board the income of the fund. We think this matter should be definitely arranged.

Taking the votes as they stand, they present this aspect to us – I speak very frankly, and you understand that I do so most fraternally – the A.M.A. would receive from us the Dakota missions with the property and with the income to be derived from appeals for Indian missions. The American Board would relinquish the right of appealing for Indian missions and the income thus likely to be secured, and also relinquish to the A.M.A. the property in the Dakota mission. The American Board would receive a promise that the A.M.A. will discontinue foreign work and appeals for the same, but this pledge is conditional and might be withdrawn at any future time; and the Am. Board would also receive something which may be obtained from the sale of certain property not specifically named, the amount quite uncertain, and the time when the property "may be sold" wholly uncertain; and after five years possibly also the A. M. A. would appropriate the income of the Avery fund through the American Board, though it is left free for the A. M. A. to do that or not at its discretion, and there is no positive statement that the A. M. A. expect to appropriate it through the American Board.

I note these things at once and write to you about them, and at our meeting Tuesday the whole matter will be laid before our Prudential Committee.

Hoping that this matter will reach such a conclusion as I am sure we all desire,

Most cordially yours,

J. O. Means.

Nov. 29 82

Mrs M. E. Blatchford
Secy &c. W. B. M. I. 375 LaSalle Ave.
Chicago

My dear Mrs Blatchford.

I am sure I do not know what to write to you in reply to your letter of the 27th just received. I wrote to Mrs Wilcox in reply to one from her on this same matter, the 14th inst. Before she received my reply & while it was on the way, I had another letter from her, dated Nov. 23 & recd 27, which I answered the same day. I am persuaded that what "makes countless thousands mourn" is not "man's inhumanity to man" but secretaries' inhumanity to women who are missionaries..

But seriously, I am perplexed by these sudden developments. Neither Miss Collins nor Miss Irvin have written to us & stated that there were difficulties such as your letter indicates. They have only written in answer to a letter, there asks for nothing which has not been granted. Immediately on the return of our visiting Com. I presented to the Pru. Com. a request in behalf of Miss Collins & Miss Irvin for a vacation & absence from the mission field during the summer. The request was at once granted, & also the sum of $150. to each which they asked in place of vacation. It was Miss Collins wrote, Nov. 2. a letter read Nov. 11

~~thought~~ a large sum, but was given cheerfully, & it was hoped the ladies would be greatly benefitted.

We supposed, naturally, that after "Summer vacation" the ladies would resume their work. The first intimation to the contrary was the letter from Mrs. Wilcox months saying Miss Irvine was in Texas & had written your Board to know whether she had better go back; & ~~that~~ your Board had telegraphed her ~~that~~ she had better remain in Texas — a ~~that~~ effect — till she heard from me. The day Mrs Wilcox's letter reached me one came from Miss Irvine dated Texas, saying she was to leave the next week for Oahe by way of Chicago. Miss Irvine did not intimate to me ~~that~~ she hesitated about going back, nor explain why she had remained away so long. Her letter, in fact, was in reply to one I had addressed to her at Oahe, & which had been forwarded to her from Oahe. I had written to let her know ~~that~~ possibly the Mission might be transferred to the A. M. A., & asking whether, if an arrangement for transfer should be made, her choice would be to continue in the Mission under the A. M. A. She answered Yes: she should wish to remain under the A. M. A.

Miss Collins wrote, Nov. 2, a letter rec'd Nov. 11

in reply to a similar inquiry. She was undecided, would not remain unless the A.M.A. would agree ~~to do this & that~~. Nothing was said of any such difficulties as your letter intimates. We have not directed Mr Thos. L. Riggs to break up the establishment at Oahe. We had succeeded at last in procuring an excellent family for Oahe: they were on their way, when a letter from Oahe ~~[illegible]~~ stopped them. Of course, no family could be secured after this one was stopped, no family could be put into Oahe in two months: & just then negotiations had begun with the A.M.A. on account of which it would not have been seemly for us to put in new missionaries if we had them. Our appropriation extends to Jany 1. 1883. with the expectation ~~that~~ a transfer will be arranged before ~~that~~ date, the only right course for us seemed to be to let matters go on as they were & are.—

Of course, all our negotiations may fall through. If they do, then we shall at once do what is practicable with regard to the mission. I hope & believe ~~that~~ before Jany 1 the arrangement with the A.M.A. will be made, & then ~~that~~ association will do what is practicable.

If Miss Collins had written to us that by some sudden stress she was in trouble & needed a special grant to carry her through December, I am sure the Com. would have done what they could. We have known nothing of Mr Riggs going to Standing Rock for the winter. If he had informed us we should have asked him under present circumstances to remain at least till January. He is under salary of the Am. Board. We have not directed, or known about, sending girls to Hampton, or his leaving Oahe for Hampton & the east. Your letter is the first information we have of these changes.

One thing seems to me clear, however: there are white families at Oahe: there are Indian women capable of doing all ~~that the~~ ladies need having done, & willing: domestics when we saw there: Mr Henry Riggs & family live nearby the mission house: there must be abundant provisions: if not, a stage goes back & forth from Pierre: they have all the money they ask for. If the house is empty save for the presence of the ladies, an Indian matron, or man & woman can be had for protection, if protection is needed: therefore the ladies need not be in extreme suffering. —

With best wishes, respectfully & very truly yours, J. O. Means.

Dec. 1 82

Rev. Dr M. E. Strieby.
Secy &c. Am. Missy Asn.
56 Reade St. New York City.

My dear Dr Strieby. –

I thank you heartily for your letter of Nov. 29. to which I have already replied, as you requested, by telegram. I have no doubt ~~that~~ our Prud. Com. will consider the action of your Ex. Com. satisfactory & will pass votes to complete the arrangement on this basis. The first vote seems perfectly clear & sufficient to make plain the intentions of the Asn. & this Board. In the 2d vote the conditional clause "unless further light on the subject shall be revealed to us", we interpret as applicable only to the proposed arrangement with the United Brethren's Board, that "at the end of five years, unless further light on the subject be revealed to us, the remaining property now held by us shall be transferred to the United Brethren [in Christ]'s Board, if arrangement can be made with it;" – I suppose it must be problematical whether that prove the best arrangement, though I trust it will prove in all respects wise; I can-

P.S. I think Rev. A. L. Riggs asked you if, in case a transfer was made, you would take up his father – Rev. Dr Riggs. Was it not so? Do you expect to? When we expected to retain part of the Mission see no reason against it, but all things look to me most hopeful for success.

By the way, is not the legal name of the Brethren "United Brethren in Christ"? Some persons confound them with the Moravian United Brethren. — We have in the past made transfers of missions. I shall look up the precedents & make sure of having votes drawn so as to make sure of legalities. At our Meeting next Tuesday, unless something unforeseen prevent, votes can be passed which will clinch & close the matter, even if more time be necessary for the preparation of the legal instruments conveying to you the property in the Dakota Mission.

Personally, I feel very thankful that God in His good providence, as it seems to me, has brought about this result. It appears to me to be directly helpful to the advancement of His kingdom. May He give grace to the officers & members of the two associations to meet the new responsibilities of our positions!

Very truly Yours.

J. O. Means.

Secy.

P.S. I think Rev. A. L. Riggs asked you if in case a transfer was made, you would take up his father Rev. Dr Riggs. Was it not so? Do you expect to & shall we expect to retain [illegible] the mission. We gave Dr Riggs to remain under the Board. Since that plan was dropped, & the plan adopted of transferring the whole mission to the Assoc., we have not written to or heard from Dr Riggs. With no Indian mission of course there is no service he can render in connection with the Board. I suppose he expects to continue in the mission. I will not write him till I hear from you, now. — J. O. M.

Dec. 4 82

Rev. C. L. Hall.
Fort Berthold. My dear brother:-

In your letter of Oct. 28 I understand it is your wish, in case the Dakota Mission be transferred to the Am. Miss'y association, to continue in the work under care of the association.

Arrangements for transfer are so nearly completed that I now write to ask you to make to the Pru. Com. ~~in accordance with your letter of acceptance~~ the formal request to be released from your relations to the A. B. C. F. M. in order that you may continue mission work among the Indians under the Am. Miss. association as it assumes the Dakota Mission.

I need not say that I most cordially reciprocate your feelings in view of this separation. It seems so evidently providential that no room for doubt as to what is best remains.

Commending you all to our Covenant Keeping God. Very truly yours.

J. O. Means.
Sec'y.

Dec. 4 82

Rev. A. L. Riggs.
Santee Agency. Neb.

From the communication signed by you & ~~the~~ other miſsionaries at Santee. Sept 11. 1882, we understand that, "recommending if a transfer is neceſsary that all the stations of the Dakota Miſsion be transferred to the Am. Miſsy Aſsociation" you & Mrs Riggs desire in such a case to be transferred.

Arrangements for transfer are so nearly completed that it is neceſsary for us to signify to the Aſsociation the names of those who wish to be continued in the work under their care. Will you & Mrs Riggs, therefore please forward a formal "request to be released from your (own) connection with the A. B. C. F. M. in order to continue in the Dakota Miſsion under care of the Am. Miſsy Aſsociation."

Commending you & the miſsion to our Covenant Keeping God,

Very truly yours.
J. O. Means.
Sec'y.

Dec. 4 82

Miss S. B. Pike.
Fort Berthold. Dak. Terr.

My dear Miss Pike.

In your letter of Oct. 23 you signify your wish to continue in the Dakota Mission under care of the Am. Missy association, if a transfer be made.

Arrangements are now so nearly completed for the transfer that it is necessary formally to signify to the Association the names of those who wish to continue in the work. Will you please therefore forward to me a formal "request to be released from your (my) connection with the A. B. C. F. M. in order to continue in the Dakota Mission under care of the Am. Missy association."

Commending you & the Mission to our Covenant Keeping God

Very Sincerely Yours.
J. O. Means
Secy.

Dec. 4 82

Mr Jos. H. Steer.
[illegible] Dakota Mission. Santee. Neb.

My dear brother.--

As in a memorial from the Santee Agency, Sept. 11. you with others recommended "that if a transfer is necessary all of the Stations of the Dakota Mission be transferred to the Am. Miss'y Association." I write now to say that arrangements for transfer are so nearly completed that, understanding your recommendation to mean of course that with the Mission you with your relation to be transferred, we ask you to forward immediately for our file a formal "request to be released from your (own) connection with the Am. B.C.F.M. in order to continue in the Dakota Mission under care of the Am. Miss'y Association."

Please ask Mrs Steer to put her name with yours.--

You understand, of course, that each one is free to continue or not, as each one thinks best.

Very truly yours
J. O. Means
Sec'y. (over)

Private —

Dec 6 02

I need not say, my dear friend, how much we feel the severance of the very pleasant relations between us. All that has come about seems so evidently providential that one cannot question one's duty in the premises.

I was on the point of writing a letter of the same tenor as this to Miss Webb, Miss Ilsley, & Miss Voorhees. Will you be kind enough to communicate this to them, & ask them to consider themselves addressed herein, & send me the formal request? — Miss Brown & Miss Chisan will be continued, I understand, as they desire; as they have no formal appointment from the Board a formal request for transfer is not necessary from them.

With renewed good wishes
I remain Sincerely your friend.
J. O. Means.

Private.

Dec 6 82

Rev. M. E. Strieby. D.D.
Secy Am. Miss'y Asso. 56 Reade St. New York

My dear brother. - Our Prud. Com. took action as was suggested to you, yesterday. A copy of the minutes I forward by this mail, & shall write another letter therewith. I take this sheet to reply to your personal inquiries. I should rather not answer them. I do so in utmost confidence, & feeling that I am only doing as I should wish to be done by. - I have heard that Rev. Thos L. Riggs was to be in Chicago last week with Indians for Hampton, & that he would be in New York & Boston shortly. He will doubtless call upon you. Most naturally & inevitably you will hear all he has to say & ask him all sorts of questions, & give such weight to his words as they seem to deserve. Of the two brothers, I should prefer very decidedly Thos L. for Superintendent, if either. Rev. A. L. R. I should say, & every member of our Prud. Com. & every Sec'y would agree with me, you would not find suitable under any circumstances. He is not specially capable, is confident that he is, & that he knows better what is best than everybody else; is not tolerant of suggestions & resents interference &

will not yield; in managing others makes them all feel & submit to his authority. Thomas L. is quite as intelligent about Indians, is as clear headed, has better notions about Indian matters, is more in accordance with your plans. I should say; is more tractable & can get along with others more pleasantly. A. L. is however looked up to by Thos. & all the family regard A. L. as a remarkable man. Thos could or would hardly contradict or go counter to A. L.'s views, I am afraid. In many respects, Thos L. is a most genial, warm hearted, genuine man: but he has a strong family feeling, breaks out now & then in unaccountable freaks & seems utterly unreasonable.

Having said this, I will add that both these men are undoubtedly earnest Christians & deeply interested in the Indians.

For reasons which none of us here can understand, both the brothers have the strongest repugnance to me, personally. 'Tis fair you should know this: I have endeavored in all my communications & relations with them to be most courteous & kindly. It has been necessary to make inquiries, about expenditures, about teachers, about buildings, & various matters on which the Com. wanted information;

& they have resented the inquiries strangely. All I have done has been in the name of the Com. & by direction of the Com. & the letters have been read to the Com. & approved before I sent them. But they have treated them as my personal letters, & I think they regard me as not treating them properly. I say this, that you may make proper abatement from my estimates, & our estimates, of them. But any one here is of the same mind. Frequently letters received were so discourteous that the merchants of our Com. wished them returned to the writer. — I am very sorry to write all this. I have myself great regard for Thos L. R. & make all allowances for discrepancies. A. L. R. seems to me an extraordinarily difficult man to deal with.

Now, would you like a copy of our regular annual appropriation to the mission, giving salaries &c.? As it would seem in expectation of changes, the estimate sent in for this year increases salaries &c. much beyond what it has been. We have not considered these estimates & have made no appropriations for 1883, in view of our negotiations. I should not offer to send you this information: you may properly ask for it. If you ask for it, I will have copied the appropriation of last year. I also will forward the estimates for 1883. — We should have been obliged to cut them down.

Let me add that now we have an admirable Treasurer of the Mission who is also treasurer of Santee Agency Station. Mr Jos. H. Steer, who began his service July 1. He is in every respect a capable, trustworthy man: not a minister: was for many years teacher at Santee in the govt industrial school: a Christian man who communes with our Church & whose wife formerly a teacher in our mission school is a Congregationalist. Since Mr Steer was treasurer all things have gone on pleasantly & economically. Mr Steer knows the Indian speech & habits well & is trusted by the Indians.

You understand that what I have written is not only confidential but strictly for information & not intended to influence your judgment as to making a S. R. a S. R. Supt. In spite of all you are told, there may be reasons why you think it expedient to appoint a S. R.: & if so we shall not think it at all strange.

Very truly Yours. J. O. Means.

Dec. 6 82

Rev. Dr. M. E. Strieby.
Secy to Am. Miss'y Asso'n 56 Reade St. N.Y.

My dear Dr. Strieby.

Herewith I inclose the official action of our Pru'd. Com. yesterday touching the transfer of the Dakota Mission to the A.M.A. &c.

There was a question in the committee as to the expression in your 8th vote — "mission property — &c. ... may be sold": it was supposed that may here means "the sale will take place when a satisfactory price can be obtained" &c.

The action of our Com. was very hearty & the feeling is that this whole movement is of God.

Our appropriation of money expires Dec. 31: thereafter we understand you will meet expenditures. I have written to our missionaries & assistant missionaries asking them to make a formal request to be released from the Am. Board in order to be taken under your care, if they so desire. There are several persons in the work, one or two teachers & matrons, & others, who are not under ~~employment~~ appointment by us, but are employed by the missionaries. Those who have been employed for a good length of time you may wish or think best to continue for the present. We have refused requests to appoint and take into employment, as teachers & as stewards, persons, of late, on the distinct & explained ground that changes would be unseemly, & especially the bringing in of new persons, when an arrangement was in progress with you & you ought not to be hampered by new appointments of ours. Mr & Mrs Steer, most valuable persons, were appointed last summer, before there was any thought of your relinquishing ~~even~~ any part of the Mission. Rev. A. L. Riggs asked recently for the appointment & employment of Rev. — Pratt & wife of New York. We declined, & did not even think it best to make inquiries as to the fitness of the candidates, for the reasons I have given. I have just heard indirectly that they are at Santee: they are not there by our knowledge. We authorized Mr Riggs to procure temporary assistance if need be in place of Mr Robbins who left in July, the engagement to be only to Jany 1. 1883; & from the neighborhood: not to bring a person from a distance at expense & with expectations awakened of permanent employment.

We will prepare & forward as soon as possible a schedule of property, & our Treasurer will sign & execute necessary legal instruments. Our locations in Reservations are recognized by the government on their plats at the agencies, & it is understood that titles will be given when the reservations are cut up. The rights to this real estate is all that we can convey, I suppose. Our buildings &c. are on these locations. We convey of course all we can convey.

I do not know of anything that needs immediate attention, save possibly to do something in behalf of Miss Irvine & Miss Collins - if the latter elects to remain - at Fort Sully Station - or, the Post office now is Oahe, Dak. (Peoria Bottom). There are buildings there. Rev. T. L. Riggs, I learn from Miss Collins, has gone away, to be at Standing Rock or on Cheyenne River, for the winter. The women are left alone, & ask for some helps in housekeeping. I have just heard of this, & shall write at once for the ladies to keep on as things are thru this month, that you may make such arrangements as you think best. There is a very hopeful field at Oahe, & the women are earnest & capable.

I shall be very ready to answer any questions

to render any assistance in my power: but do
not wish to volunteer any.

With best wishes: Very truly yours

J. O. Means.

Sec'y.

Extract from the Minutes of the meeting of the Prudential Committee, Tuesday, Dec. 5th 1882.

"Whereas the Secretary of the Am. Miss. Ass'n has transmitted "Extracts from the minutes of the Executive Committee of the Am. Miss. Ass'n," to wit: "New York, Nov. 29th 1882. At a special meeting of our Executive Committee held yesterday the inclosed series of votes was passed.

"Voted:

"1. That the Association will accept the Dakota Mission of the Board with the understanding that the Board discontinue mission work in this country and appeals for such work, and that the Association will discontinue all foreign mission work and all appeals to the churches for aid in the support of foreign missions, including the appeal for the John Brown Steamer.

"2. That it will transfer, for the period of five years, to the Mission Board of the United Brethren, whose office is in Dayton, Ohio, the Mendi Mission with the funds collected and pledged for the John Brown Steamer, on condition that the steamer be built and used in connection with this mission and as a part of its property.

to-gether with the use of all the mission property and the avails of the Avery Endowment Fund.

"3. That the mission property at such stations in the Mendi Mission as may not be occupied by the United Brethren may be sold when a satisfactory price can be obtained and the proceeds given to the American Board for their African work, and that at the end of five years, unless further light on the subject shall be revealed to us the remaining property now held by us shall be transferred to the United Brethren's Board, if arrangement can be made with it: and that at the same time, the income of the Avery Endowment Fund shall be appropriated to missions in Africa through the American Board.

"4. That the funds for the Arthington Mission be transferred to the United Presbyterians, if suitable arrangements can be made, and if Mr. Arthington and other donors of the funds shall accede to the transfer; if neither condition can be met that the funds be returned to the donors after deducting the cost of the exploration in the Upper Nile Basin."

China a field for Missions.+

By President J. B. Angell LL.D.
of the University of Michigan.

~~The following Stenographic~~

+ [A Stenographic report of the address of Pres. Angell ~~given in connection with~~ at the Annual Meeting ~~of the Ameri Board~~ at Detroit, October 4. in presenting the report of the Committee on the Chinese Missions.]

Resolved: That the Prudential Committee in accordance with the recommendations of the American Board at the Annual Meeting in Portland, Oct 5th 1888, transfer the Dakota Mission to the care of the Am. Miss. Ass'n and discontinue mission work among the N. A. Indians and appeals for such work; the transfer to date from January 1st 1883.

Resolved: That Langdon S. Ward, Treasurer, be and is authorized and empowered to sign and execute such instruments as may be necessary to convey to the Am. Miss. Ass'n a legal title to all personal property and all real estate and all rights in the same, and all property of all kinds belonging to the American Board in connection with the Dakota Mission: namely, in the Niobrara Indian Reservation, and Santee Agency, Nebraska; in the Lake Traverse Reservation, and Sisseton Agency, Dakota; in the Sioux Reservation and Cheyenne River Agency, and at Peoria Bottom, or Oahe, Dakota; and in Fort Berthold Reservation, Dakota; or elsewhere.

Resolved: That the Prudential Committee will receive from the Am. Miss. Ass'n such proceeds of sales of property at the Mendi Mission or elsewhere and such income of the Avery Endowment Fund, or other Moneys as the Am. Miss. Ass'n may tender, and will appropriate the same to mission work in Africa. The Prudential Committee interpret the conditional clause in the 3rd vote of the Am. Miss. Ass'n as applicable only to the proposed arrangement with the Board of the United Brethren in Christ.

Resolved: That the Clerk transmit to the Executive Committee of the Am. Miss. Ass'n a copy of these resolutions.

A true copy,
Attest
E. K. Alden,
Clerk.

Dec. 8 82

Miss Louise M. Irvine
Fort Garland. Colorado.

My dear Miss Irvine.

I have just read yours of Nov. 29. from Fort Garland. – Your letter of Nov. 6. San Antonio, reached me Nov. 13: You wrote that you were leaving for Chicago en route to Oahe. Soon after I had a letter from the W.B.M. I at Chicago, saying that they had telegraphed to you, at your request for advice, to remain at S. Antonio till you heard from me. I replied to them that by the tenor of your letter to me you must have left S. Antonio & I could not tell where a letter would reach you, & ~~that~~ it was a matter of course, unless you were advised by me to the contrary, that you would return to the work at Oahe as soon as your summer vacation was over. Perhaps you have expected a letter from me, & I say this to explain why it was impossible for me to reach you, as you did not write where you were to be for letters to be sent.

Now I will say that the arrangements for the transfer of the Dakota Mission to the Am. Miss. Asso^n were so far perfected that the association will take charge of affairs Jany 1. 1883. all the new arrangements for Oahe they will of course make. Our appropriations are made up to Dec. 31. I have no doubt they will do what will meet your wishes. I shall forward your letter to Dr Strieby. Of course there may be some delay: you will certainly be patient in consideration of perplexities attending the transfer.

Your letter of Nov. 6 in which you express your wish to continue in the Dakota mission under care of the A.M.A. will be laid before the Com. & the transfer will be made in due order.

My dear Miss Irvine, it is one of the very painful things connected with these changes that such faithful, capable & devoted missionaries should be detached from their connection with the Am. Board. We have all been deeply interested in you & your work. I am sure the Lord will bless you abundantly in all time to come. That this may is the sincere desire & earnest prayer of

Your friend & fellow servant in the Lord
J. O. Means.

Dec. 6th. 82.

Rev. Dr. S. R. Riggs.
Beloit, Wis.

My dear Dr. Riggs;-

I wrote you July 28 of a confidential interview with Secretaries of the Presb. Board of Home Missions, in which I inquired whether if our Prud. Com. saw their way clear to make a proposal for the transfer to their care of the Santee and Sisseton Stations of our Dakota mission, this would be favorably received: and I added that one condition, in case any proposal should be made, would be, that you would be invited to continue a missionary of the Am. Board and render general service in the Indian field which we retained. As I said then, no proposition had been made to the Presb. Board: nothing had been done but simply to sound them and learn how a proposal if made would be received.

Subsequent developments were such that, for reasons I need not dwell upon, the Prud. Com. did not see their way clear to make proposals and no proposals were made to the Presb.

Home Board. At the Annual meeting in Portland all papers relating to the subject, including those from the missions, and the petition of all the missionaries at Santee favoring the transfer to the Am. Miss. Assn. of all the stations of the Dakota mission, were referred to a special Committee. On the report of this Committee a recommendation was adopted that the Board wholly withdraw from work among the N. A. Indians and transfer the Dakota mission to the American Missionary Association.

This is understood, of course, as carrying over to the A. Miss. Assn. the prestige and valuable experience of the missionaries, who have been so long identified with and are expecting to remain in the Indian work.

The pleasant thought therefore we entertained, in view of the arrangement by which we were to continue the Indian mission, that in that event you would prosecute to the end of your life your labors among the Indians as a missionary of the Board with which for over forty years you have been connected and have rendered such faithful and honorable service, we must necessarily relinquish.

It is a part of our understanding with the

Association, that unless the missionaries personally have reasons for withdrawing from the mission, they continue their relation under the American Missionary Association, as it takes up the work and as the Am. Board is to have nothing more to do among the Indians.

In carrying out, as the Prud. Com. is doing, the recommendation of the Annual Meeting, the arrangement with the A. M. Association has reached the stage in which it is necessary to communicate with each missionary so that each may make the formal request for release from the Am. Board in order to remain in the Dakota mission under care of the Am. Miss. Assn. if that is desired.

As the Association is to assume the care of the mission Jan. 1. 1883, an immediate communication is desired.

Will you please write in behalf of yourself and of Mrs. Riggs?

Respectfully and very truly yours.

J. O. Means

Sec'y.

Dec. 7, 82.

Rev. Dr. M. E. Strieby, Sec.
56 Reade St. New York City.

My dear Dr. Strieby:

I have just been writing to the several missionaries of our Dakota mission, to inform them that arrangements are so far perfected that you will take charge of the Dakota mission January 1st, and have asked them for a formal request to be released from their connection with the American Board in order to continue in the Indian work under your care. It has occurred to me whether it would not be a very cordial thing if you also should at once write a letter to each of these missionaries, welcoming them and expressing your expectation that they will continue in the work under your care. I think it might be specially helpful, in view of possible perplexities about the Sisiton station if you should particularly do this in the case of Rev. Dr. Riggs and his sons A. L. and T. L. In case you would like to do this, I suppose the sooner they should hear from you, even if they should hear at the same time that they do from me, the pleasanter it would be to the missionaries. Enclosed you will find the names and postal addresses of the Dakota missionaries. Let me say in general with regard to all these missionaries and assistant missionaries what of course you wish to know; that they have been in the service of the Board a good while, and they would continue if we retained the Indian work. You may, of course, wish to make your special arrangements with them, or with some of them hereafter. I only speak of the general invitation which may come gracefully from you to go on in the work under your care.

In my last letter I said that there was but one matter which seemed to require immediate consideration, that of the Oahe station or Peoria Bottom. Miss Collins and Miss Irvine who are at Oahe - Miss Irvine is the post-mistress - are capable and devoted missionaries. They have been doing specially an excellent work among the women. They desired to have a small boarding school for girls, and we doubtless should have prepared a building which they would take charge of, to accommodate twelve or fifteen, as an experiment. Now the dwelling house which Mr. T. L. Riggs and family and the ladies have occupied together is to be wholly at the disposal of the two ladies, and Miss Irvine writes that in the proposed plan of house-keeping by her and Miss Collins this winter, they expect to receive into this building a number of Indian girls. I think it will be a capital plan, and they can begin in this way and see how the work shall progress. In any event, the expense would be slight. So I send to you a letter just received from Miss Irvine from Fort Garland, Colorado, where her father is stationed, an officer of the U. S. Army. She states in this letter what her wishes and those of Miss Collins are, and asks for an addition to their salaries sufficient to meet the expense of house-keeping which they expect to incur. They have been receiving $350. each, and she thinks that $450. - $100. additional to each - would meet the additional expense. As a temporary arrangement, I have no doubt our Committee would at once make this grant, and if we were going on beyond January

I should bring it before the Committee next week. I say this, and then send the letter to you for you to take such action upon it as seems to you proper. I have written myself to Miss Divine today. I should like to have her letter returned to me after you have made such use of it as you wish.

Very truly yours,

J. O. Means.

Dec. 8 82

Rev. Thos. L. Riggs.
Oahe, Dak. Territory.

My dear brother.

Arrangements for a transfer of the Dakota Mission to the care of the A. M. Association have reached such a stage that the association will take charge of the Mission Jany 1. 1883.

I am writing to all the missionaries [illegible] say that, as of course is understood, they continue in the work under care of the association, unless anyone for personal reasons does not choose to. - Only, a formal request to the Prud. Com. to be released from the Board for this purpose, is necessary. For this I have written to all. Each one of course acts his own pleasure. - [illegible] the time is near, please let me hear from you as soon as possible.

Very truly Yours.
J. O. Means

Dec. 8 82

My dear friends. Mr & Mrs Morris:—

In accordance with the vote of the Annual meeting of the Board at Portland recommending that the Dakota Mission be transferred to the Am. Miss. Assoc. arrangements are so nearly perfected that the Association will take charge, & all the stations will come under its care Jany 1. 1883. I am writing to all our missionaries to inform them of this, as it is understood & expected that the missionaries & assistant missionaries will continue their work under care of the Association, unless any for personal reasons choose otherwise. The Board withdraws wholly from work among the Indians: the Association takes it up as we leave it.

Not the least of the unpleasant things is the severance of the relations of missionaries to the Board. The Lord may overrule all this for good, we know. — If you send a request to be released from your connection with the A.B.C.F.M. in order to continue in the Dakota Mission under care of the A.M.A. our Com. will act upon it at once & inform the Association. — Please write as soon as possible.

With best wishes for you all, Very truly yours. J. O. Means.

Mr & Mrs T. K. Morris. Sisseton Agency. Dak.

Miss Eda L. Ward. Fort Berthold. Dak. Dec. 8 2

My dear Miss Ward.

The proposed arrangement to transfer our Dakota Mission to the Am. Miss. association has reached such a stage that the association will take full charge Jany 1. 1883.

In your letter of Oct 24 you say that if the transfer is made you wish to drop out of the work for the present. Your request will of course be complied with & laid before the Com.. I think you undervalue your fitness for the work & what you have done in it. Others judge you & your labors differently. May you not conclude to remain, at least for a while & see how matters shall go? If you accept under care of the A.M.A. & then think best to retire, it will be perfectly easy to do so. May you not at least remain through the winter as a temporary teacher? I have no doubt the assocn would be glad to have you do even this if no more. After you have had a rest, would you like to continue a missionary of the Board & go to some foreign field?

I will not lay your letter before the Com.

till time enough elapses to hear from you in case you conclude to remain..

At any rate, if you take a release from the Board now, please consider whether you would like to offer yourself for the foreign field. This need not be decided at once. Take time for it.

May the Lord bless you in all your plans & guide you in your decision.

With many prayers for your welfare,
Sincerely your friend & fellow servant in the Lord,
J. O. Means.

Dec. 8 82

Rev. Dr M. E. Strieby
Sec. Am. Miss. Asso. 56 Reade St N.Y.

My dear brother. Your letter of yesterday has just come. The papers you request shall be forwarded if possible with this.

As to your 3d vote, let me say this. Our Pru. Com. in their resolutions appended their interpre-

Rev. M. E. Strieby D.D.
56 Reade St., New York, N. Y.

Dec. 1, 1882

Committee will undoubtedly accept your ~~the arrangement. Will~~ proposals. Will write more particularly.

J. O. Means

The 3d vote reads: - "That the Mission property may be sold . . . & the proceeds given to the Am. Board for their African work, and that at the end of five years, unless further light on the subject shall be revealed to us, the remaining property now held by us shall be transferred to the A. B.'s Board, if arrangements can be made with it; and that after same time, the income of the Avery End. Fund shall be appropriated to missions in Africa through the Am. Board." The condition "unless further light" seemed grammatically to terminate with the

Dec. 8 82

Rev. Dr M. E. Strieby

Sec'y &c. Am. Miss. Asso. 56 Reade St. N.Y.

My dear brother, Your letter of yesterday has just come. The papers you request shall be forwarded if possible with this.

As to your 3d vote, let me say this: Our Pru'l. Com. in their resolutions appended their interpretation of it, because from the structure of the sentence they supposed that to be your meaning, & because that is what they have all along understood & fully expected from the statements of your Com. of Conference in Boston & from the interview of Dr Thompson & myself with your Ex. Com. in New York.

The 3d vote reads: "That the Mission property may be sold . . . . & the proceeds given to the Am. Board for their African work, and that at the end of five years, unless further light on the subject shall be revealed to us, the remaining property now held by us shall be transferred to the U. B.'s Board if arrangements can be made with it; and that at the same time, the income of the Avery End. Fund shall be appropriated to Missions in Africa through the Am. Board". The condition "unless further light &c" seemed grammatically to terminate with the semi-colon after "of conveyance" can be made with it [W. B. B.]; it did not occur to us that the "further right" was to avoid possible litigation about the Avery Fund, inasmuch as in your 2d vote you transfer the income of that Fund for five years to the United Brethren without any such condition.

Then also, in the conference of your Committee with the Prud. Com. in Boston when the matter was first opened by you, we distinctly understood ~~that~~ (if there were no legal obstacles) your proposition was to appropriate the income of the Avery Fund through the Am. Board for African Missions & ~~that~~ you would at once make inquiries as to the legality of so appropriating the fund. Subsequently you forwarded the copy of the opinion of your legal counsel that this appropriation could be made. Our Com. first entertained your overtures, & took all subsequent steps, in the supposition & understanding that there was to be this appropriation of the income of the ~~the~~ Avery Fund & ~~that~~ there was no other condition than that of its legality.

These are the reasons why our Prud. Com. so interpreted your 3d vote.

We were intending & expecting in announcing the arrangement to our friends, to say that the Board transferred the Dakota Mission with all the property to the Association; & that the Association had voted to appropriate after five years the income of the Avery Endowm.t Fund to African work through the Board. Our plans for African work would be made in view of it. We cannot do this, of course, if the interpretation of the 3d vote, by your Com., is as you intimate in your letter; which leaves it an open question altogether whether the income of the Avery Fund ever shall be appropriated thro the Am. Board.

Inasmuch as in your letter you do not, I judge, feel quite positive yourself, under the circumstances is it not best that your Com. decide what their wish is, before I bring the matter again before our Prud. Committee?

What our Com. desire is that there be no misunderstandings. I must frankly say that while I sincerely hope & trust that there will be no ~~[illegible]~~ failure of completing what seems now so nearly & happily completed, your interpretation of your 3d vote staggers me.

Sincerely yours,

J. O. Means.

Dec. 14 82

Rev A. L. Riggs
Santee Agency. Neb.

My dear brother

Miss Paddock left us on a sudden summons to her mother's funeral. I am glad to hear she is well enough to resume work.

She has not rec'd here the salary to January. Of course she sh'd receive it at Santee.

A letter from yr brother S....R. Dec. 4 announced ~~that~~ he was setting out for Washington for Brayn.

With kind regards to Mrs Riggs

Very truly yours
J. O. Means.

Dec. 14 82.

Miss M. M. Paddock.

Santee Agency, Neb.

My dear Miss Paddock.

A letter from Mr Riggs says that you are back at Santee. If that means, as I hope it does, that you are well enough to be back, I am greatly rejoiced. Since your sudden & sad departure I have been very anxious to hear from you. Now, let me say, that Jan. 1. 1883 the Am. Miss. Ass. will take charge of the whole Dakota Mission. I suppose you will continue under their care. If so please write me, & you will be released from the Am. Board with this [illegible]. I cannot tell you how deeply I [illegible] With kindest regard to Miss Webb & yours truly. Very truly yours, J. O. Means.

Dec. 14 [illegible]

Rev. Dr. M. E. Strieby

[illegible] York City [illegible] Ex. Com., as [illegible] your letter [illegible] the expec- [illegible] & satisfies all the [illegible] hope to [illegible] to our Mission [illegible] that all [illegible] presently [illegible] So far as [illegible] a special [illegible] teachers. [illegible] not yet received [illegible] member of [illegible] Rev. T. L. Riggs [illegible] office which was Peoria Boston, & then Miss Collins is Portsmouth announced that he was leaving, to take some girls to Hampton. His son to grandparents in Bangor Me. & that it might be some time before he [illegible] best wishes, Very truly yours, J. O. Means.

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feel the change in which, among other things, I am not likely to have further communications with you young ladies. The Lord bless you all & strengthen you for most successful work!

What is your position as to money matters? I notice that your salary was paid in Boston to Aug. 31. I find nothing after that. There has been repaid for board &c $40. for Miss Dr— incidentals since you left $7. — and when you left, I think it was $10. — a total of $57. — If you wish, I will state the matter to the Pru. Com. & ask a special grant for your [illegible] to cover this amount. I think it is proper & have no doubt the grant if desired will be made. — We often speak of you & sh'd like to see you again at our rooms. — Please reply at once.

With kindest regards to Miss Wells & yours

Very truly yours, J. O. Means.

Dec. 14 '2

Rev. Dr. M. E. Strieby.
Sec'y &c. Am. Miss'y Asso. New York City
My dear brother:—

The action of your Ex. Com., as you have communicated it in your letter of the 13, and it seems to me fully meets the expectations of our Prud. Com. & satisfies all the necessities. I will forward lay it before the Com. next Tuesday that it may go into our minutes.

I thank the Lord, from my heart, that all matters are now so completely & so satisfactorily arranged — this is true, I am certain, so far as we are concerned.

I am glad you thought best to write a second letter of invitation to the missionaries & teachers. They will appreciate it. I have not yet received replies to the letters I wrote to each member of the mission: it is not time yet for replies.

A letter dated Dec. 4 came from Rev. T. L. Riggs now Oahe — the new post office at what was Peoria Bottom, where Miss Collins is Postmistress — announced that he was leaving, to take some girls to Hampton & his son to grandparents in Bangor Me.: that it might be some time before he should be in New York & Boston.

Am very much surprised & am very sorry that Dr Kendall manifests so much feeling. Before responding to your overture state, Dr Thompson & I called at his office & informed him that our Com. did not see their way clear to make any proposal to the Presb. Home Board. In my interview with him & his associates in the summer I distinctly stated ~~that~~ I did not come to make any proposals, ~~that~~ our Com. were not prepared to make proposals. He wrote me Oct. 16 after Dr Thompson & I had called a second long letter, to which I replied Oct. 18. I have heard nothing more till Dec. 7, when I rec'd another letter, which I answered yesterday. It may be well for you, at some time, to see these letters.

I said to him, yesterday, ~~that~~ the Dakota Mission, all its stations & every department in each station, is under our care today in the same ~~manner~~ & to the same extent it has ever been: ~~that~~ we have made no changes nor asked or authorized any changes & ~~that~~, unless some minor details hindered, we expect the A.M.A. to take charge with the New Year.

Again, with best wishes, Very truly yrs. J. O. Means.

Dec. 20, 82.

Rev. C. L. Hall,
Ft. Berthold, Dak.

My dear Mr. Hall:

The arrangement is at last completed with the American Missionary Association, as I wrote to you Dec. 4th. The arrangement goes into effect Jan. 1st 1883, when the Association assumes all the care and responsibilities and will have all the joy of the Indian work. Your letter of Oct. 23rd was laid before the Committee yesterday, and a formal release was voted to you as a missionary in connection with the American Board, with the understanding that you are to continue in the service, only now making your communications with another honored and trusted Society. We hope that a large career of usefulness is opening to the Dakota mission under the new auspices, and that you will have a large part in the good work which is to be done. May the Lord bless you abundantly in it!

Very truly yours, J. O. Means.

Dec. 20 82.

Miss Sophronia B. Pike,
Ft. Berthold, Dak.

My dear Miss Pike:

Your letter of Oct. 23rd was laid before the Prudential Committee yesterday, and you were released from your connection with the American Board as a missionary in the Dakota mission, and commended most heartily to the American Missionary Association which now takes up our Indian work. We hope your health is to continue, and your usefulness to be greatly enlarged, and that you will find that the Lord has directed in all the strange events of these past years.

With very pleasant remembrances of our visit to Ft. Berthold, and with many prayers that God may bless you in your future life,

Very sincerely yours,
J. O. Means.

Dec. 20 82.

Miss Louisa M. Irvine,
Oahe, Dak.

My dear Miss Irvine:

Your letter of Nov. 6th in which you express your wish, in case of a transfer, to continue in the Dakota work under the care of the A. M. A. was laid before the Committee yesterday, and you were released from your connection with the American Board, and are most heartily commended to the American Missionary Association. We are sure they are to receive in you a faithful, earnest, devoted missionary, and we pray God that your work may be abundantly owned and blessed in the coming years for the spiritual life of the Indians. May the Lord bless you personally in your own heart and life, and give you great joy in His service.

Respectfully and very truly yours,
J. O. Means.

Dec. 20, '82.

Miss Harriet B. Ilsley,
Santee Agency, Neb.

My dear Miss Ilsley:

At the meeting of the Prudential Committee yesterday, your letter of Dec. 11th was read, and you were released from your connection with the American Board as a missionary, with the understanding that you are to continue in the Indian work in connection with the American Missionary Association. The new arrangement begins with Jan. 1, 1883. Dr. Strieby has already communicated with you on the subject, he writes me. It is a very painful thing to part with our missionaries under the circumstances which have been so pleasant. I need not say that we have been very much gratified with the service you have rendered in the short time in which you have been connected with our mission, and we trust and believe it is an indication of a noble work you are to do in the future. May the Lord bless you abundantly in it!

Respectfully and very truly yours, J. O. Means.

Dec. 20, 82.

Rev. A. L. Riggs and Mrs. Mary B. Riggs,
Santee Agency, Neb.

My dear friends:

At the meeting of the Prudential Committee yesterday, action was taken upon your letter of Dec. 12th, and you were released from your connection as missionaries with the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, with the understanding that you are to continue in the work as it now passes in charge of the American Missionary Association. We trust that you are to find great satisfaction in the work and great enjoyment in it and great success in time to come, and that abundant blessings will rest upon you personally and upon your children.

With best wishes,

Respectfully and very truly yours,

J. O. Means.

Dec. 20, 82.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph H. Steer,
Santee, Neb.

My dear friends:

The very painful duty devolves upon me of communicating the action of our Prudential Committee yesterday in response to your letter of Dec. 14th. The Committee voted that you be released from your connection as missionaries with the American Board, with the understanding that you are to continue in the work on which you have entered and in which the Lord, we believe, is greatly to bless you, in the Dakota mission. I most heartily reciprocate all you have said with regard to the pleasantness of our intercourse by word and letter. I am sure that our friends of the Association are to have great help from your relation to them and to your fellow missionaries. I hope that a better work is to be done for the Indians in the future than has been done in the past, and that greater joy is to come to those of you who are permitted to engage in the work.

For you personally and also for the mission work many prayers will go up to the Lord that blessings in abundant measure may descend upon you.

Very truly yours,
J. O. Means.

82.

Dear Miss Webb,

[illegible] has finally been completed with the American Missionary Association which takes charge of our whole Indian work Jan. 1st, 1883. This, as I wrote to you, involves the painful necessity of separation from beloved and honored missionaries. Your letter of Dec. 11th was laid before the Committee yesterday, and you were released from your connection with the American Board as a missionary, with the understanding that you are to continue in the same blessed work now that it passes under the care of an honored and trusted sister Society.

Dear Miss Webb, I most cordially reciprocate all that you say in your letter with regard to the relations you have sustained to the Board. Probably there will be changes in your mission as time goes on, but we hope there is to be a long period of work before you, and of blessed joy in work among the

Dec. 20 82.

Miss Susan Webb,
Santee Agency, Neb.

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Dear Miss Webb, I most cordially reciprocate all that you say in your letter with regard to the relations you have sustained to the Board. Probably there will be changes in your mission as time goes on, but we hope there is to be a long period of work before you, and of blessed joy in work among the

Indians. May the Lord help you and your associates to accomplish more than has been done, and to get greater enjoyment in the service to which He is calling you there!

Very truly yours,

J. O. Means.

New York City.

My dear Brother,

I take great pleasure in writing this morning to say that at the meeting of the Prudential Committee yesterday afternoon your last letter containing the amended vote of the Executive Committee was communicated and received with great satisfaction, and placed on the Minutes of the Committee, so that with the previous votes passed by your Committee and by our own, the whole transaction has now become with us matter of record.

The matter of the Sisseton churches and what the Presbyterian Home Board has to do and not to do in the premises I will attend to, and we hope that all things will be placed in such a shape that no perplexity or trouble will come to the Association about any of these matters. Of course we transfer to you only what we have, and whatever can transfer; but all that belongs to our Board, or that

Dec. 20 82.

Rev. Dr. M. E. Strieby,
Sec. Am. Miss. Ass'n, New York City.

My dear brother:

I take great pleasure in writing this morning to say that at the meeting of the Prudential Committee yesterday afternoon your last letter containing the amended vote of the Executive Committee was communicated and received with great satisfaction, and placed on the Minutes of the Committee, so that with the previous votes passed by your Committee and by our own, the whole transaction has now become with us matter of record.

The matter of the Sisseton churches and what the Presbyterian Home Board has to do and not to do in the premises I will attend to, and we hope that all things will be placed in such a shape that no perplexity or trouble will come to the Association about any of these matters. Of course we transfer to you only what we have, and what we can transfer; but all that belongs to our Board, or that has belonged to it, all its powers and privileges and possessions in the Dakota mission as they have been for these years past we shall endeavor to pass over fully to the Association. There is a matter touching the title to the land at Peoria Bottom which is also engaging our attention, and we desire to have everything arranged in reference to that, so that between the Board and the Association everything may be complete.

Do you remember that some time ago you spoke of the manuscript of a dictionary or book in the language spoken at Mendi? I asked you for it in behalf of R. N. Cust, Esq. of London, who is engaged in a work on Afican philology. If you can spare it, I should like very much to send it to him for his use, with the understanding that he should return it when he has finished using it. This will subject it to the risk of a sea voyage, of course. If you do not think it best to do this, please forward the manuscript and I will have it copied.

Gen. Armstrong was in yesterday and I had a little conversation with him - nothing of special importance that I know of.

With best wishes, Very truly yours, J. O. Means

Dec. 19th. 82

Rev. Dr. S. R. Riggs:
Beloit, Wis.

My dear Dr. Riggs:-

In view of your letter of the 13th. inst. the Prudential Committee have voted to release you and Mrs. Riggs from your connection with the American Board as missionaries under its care: and they commend you most heartily and prayerfully to the Am. Miss. Assn. as it takes charge of that Dakota mission in which you have so long been faithful laborers. It was on the 10th. of January, 1837. that S. R. Riggs was appointed a missionary and designated to the Sioux mission. It was the hope and expectation of the Committee, as you state it was your own, that you would not only continue to the end of life in this mission but labor in it as a missionary of the Board. We congratulate you that you are not to be withdrawn from the work to which your long life has been devoted; it is the Am. Board which is called in God's providence to relinquish what it had no thought of relinquishing, its whole Indian mission, and with this by the same providence to relinquish the missionaries who desire to continue in that mission.

Inasmuch as "the passing of the Dakota mission at this time to the A.M.A. is Evidently," as you say," of the Lord, and the condition of things made it a necessity," this necessity has destroyed the Expectation of the Com. that they would still have in charge a Dakota mission, where you might continue as a missionary of the Am. Board.

In the letter of July 28, to which you refer, we wrote that in the contingency of a transfer to the Presb. Board of Home Missions of the Santee and Sisseton stations, you would be invited specially to continue a missionary of the Board and render such service as you might be able to in the Indian field which would remain under care of the Board. The invitation, as the letter stated, was contingent upon a transfer for which then no proposals had been made, but about which, as was stated, only an informal interview had been held with the officials of the Presb. Board. Our next communication to you, Dec. 6. stated that the thought of a transfer to the Presb. Board had gone no farther than was intimated July 28: that the Prudential Committee had not seen their way clear to make any proposal and that none had been made to the Presb. Board: but that all the mission stations, churches and schools inclusive, under one charge, were to be in charge of the Am. Miss. Association: and that such of the missionaries as wished to remain in the mission, it was desired should remain under the care of the association which expected and cordially invited them to do so.

In reviewing these two communications, which are all we have had with you on this matter, we are sorrowfully compelled to say that the suggestions of "bad faith", of "a bargain" which had been "changed without any recognition of my right to be heard in the case", and of "seeming discourtesy and want of good faith" &c. seem so incomprehensible that we should not believe them possible if we did not read them in your letter.

We join most heartily, Dear Dr. Riggs, in the tender recognition of Divine favors with which you close your letter, and generously reciprocate the hopeful and kind sentiments for the Board and the Committee. The Prudential

Committee and the Executive officers join in earnest prayer to the God of all Grace that He may be pleased to prolong your life and strength and uphold you for another period of successful and joyful service in the beloved Dakota mission. May you count more than "Fifty Years" as a missionary to the Indians!

In behalf of the Prudential Com.

Respectfully and truly yours,

J. O. Means

Sec'y.

Dec. 22 82.

Ft. Berthold.

My dear Miss Ward

Your letter of Oct. 24th received the 31st was laid before the Prudential Committee this week. You say that if the transfer of the Dakota mission is made to the A. M. A. you wish to drop out of the mission work for the present. The transfer, as I wrote to our missionaries, is to go into effect Jan. 1, '83, when the American Missionary Association take charge of all matters. Your request has been complied with, and you have been released from your connection with the Board as an assistant missionary. We give you our best wishes for your own health and strength for the future, and hope that after some rest you will be able to resume this or similar work. When we were at Ft. Berthold it seemed to us very clear that you were doing excellent service, and I am sure our friends of the A. M. A. will greatly need your help, at least for a time. Dr. Strieby wrote to me

Dec. 22 82.

Miss Eda L. Ward,
Ft. Berthold.

My dear Miss Ward:

Your letter of Oct. 24th received the 31st was laid before the Prudential Committee this week. You say that if the transfer of the Dakota mission is made to the A.M.A. you wish to drop out of the mission work for the present. The transfer, as I wrote to our missionaries, is to go into effect Jan. 1, 83, when the American Missionary Association take charge of all matters. Your request has been complied with, and you have been released from your connection with the Board, as an assistant missionary. We give you our best wishes for your own health and strength for the future, and hope that after some rest you will be able to resume this or similar work. When we were at Ft. Berthold it seemed to us very clear that you were doing excellent service, and I am sure our friends of the A.M.A. will greatly need your help, at least for a time. Dr. Strieby wrote to me at he had communicated with each of the achers, and I hope will prevail upon you to emain through the winter at least in the service of the Association. We are very sorry to part company with our faithful laborers. We only are gratified to feel that they are continuing in the work under different direction. I am thankful for the acquaintance I have been permitted to form with you personally, and shall remember you in the years to come, and if at any time I can be of any service, will be very glad to. If you would like to engage in missionary work elsewhere in case you do not resume teaching among the Indians, I should be glad to have you communicate with me.

Respectfully and very truly yours,

J. O. Means.

Miss M. C. Collins, Dec. 22, 82.
Oahe, Dak.

My dear Miss Collins:

Your letter of the 6th of Dec. was laid before the Committee this week, and you were released from your connection with the American Board as an assistant missionary. We had hoped you would wish to continue in the work under the care of the American Missionary Association, but inasmuch as you are not prepared for that step probably you will remain as you are temporarily, looking after such matters as require your attention until the Association can have some one take charge in your place. Dr. Strieby wrote to me that he had communicated with all the missionaries and teachers, and I suppose he has communicated with regard to your continuing in the work under the care of the Association. May the Lord bless you abundantly whatever be the sphere of labor you may finally choose!

Very truly yours, J. O. Means

Dec. 22nd. 82.

Rev. Thos. L. Riggs.
Care of Hon. J. B. Foster. Bangor. Me.

My dear brother:-

There is one matter I did not have time in your short call to-day to speak of, which however is so pressing in order to have all ready for the New Years' change, that I write at once and shall be glad to receive your reply in season for the Committee meeting next Tuesday.

In making the final arrangements to pass over the Dakota mission to the A. M. A., we find that the transfer of the property at Peoria Bottom, may be subject to any equitable claim you may have to be reimbursed for expenses, which have not yet been repaid to you, incurred in securing according to the request of the Prudential Committee the title to the land from the U. S. Government.

It appears that July 7. 1874. the Prudential Committee granted $2300. for the erection of buildings at the Station. The land was not then open to preemption. When in 1879-1880. the land was thrown open, the buildings of the Board had been long standing and in the occupancy of the missionaries representing the Board. This prior occupancy and continued occupancy by our representative of buildings belonging to the Board gave certain rights, which were recognized by the Government. By the steps taken by you in due order the preemption title to the land was secured. You wrote March 18. 1880." The land on which the mission buildings stand I have entered as my preemption. Will the Board wish to have entire control of the land, that is when I make final proof (I can do it at any time now) would you care to have me convey title to the Board and would you wish to make good to me my cash expenditure incurred thereby? There are 165+ acres in the tract which at government price ($1.25 per acre) and other expenses of final proof will amount to about $250. or some less probably. I shall prove up and pay up some time during the ensuing summer."

Secretary Clark replied, Oct. 27. 1880. "The item in yours of March 8. was brought to the notice of "the Committee yesterday. They favor your conveying the title to the Board, or holding it in your own name as Trustee for the Board. whichever form is most convenient for the object; and they will advance you the amount, about $250. as we understand, which you have paid for it or may pay to secure the title in due form." The same day, the Treasurer, Mr. Ward wrote: "I am authorized to pay you for the land, all you have disbursed to secure it. When the transfer is made I suppose the papers should be recorded and then sent here, and then or before I will place at your credit the sum required." In your reply of Nov. 9. 1880. you wrote "I have not yet proved up, but expect to do so before long." I doubt not this has been done by you since, and that all is now in order for the final settlement.

In haste. Very truly Yours.

O. Means

Dec. 23.

Rev. M. E. Strieby, D.D.
Sec. Am. Tract Soc'y, New York City.

My dear Dr. Strieby:

Rev. Thomas L. Riggs was in yesterday and asked whether the explanations of some of the Estimates for this year had been forwarded to you. I find that the accompanying explanations had not been forwarded, and enclose them herewith according to his request.

I will add only a word, to say that Mr. Steer was not present at the meeting, where his salary was reduced from what it was the previous year, and he was very much surprised to learn that it was done.

Very truly yours,
J. O. Means,
per Str.

Dec 28 82

Mr & Mrs W. K. Morris.

Sisseton Agency. Dakota.

Dear friends.

Your letter of Dec. 14 was laid before the Prud. Com. at the last meeting, & your requests granted, & you are released from your connection with the Am. Board of Com. for For. Missions as assistant missionaries, & you are most cordially commended to the Am. Miss'y Association which takes up the Dakota Mission Jan 1. 1883. Your expressions of regret in view of this separation are certainly most natural. We hope it will prove that in these unexpected changes the Lord has purposes of mercy which we shall all recognize hereafter. May His blessing most abundantly rest upon you & your family!

Respectfully & very sincerely yours.

J. O. Means.

Sec'y.

Miss S. Lizzie Voorhees   Dec. 28 82

Santee Agency, Neb.

My dear Miss Voorhees

Your letter of Dec. 15 was laid before the Com. at the last meeting & you were released from your connection with the Am. Board of Com. for For. Miss'ns as an assistant missionary under its care, & are most cordially commended to the Am. Miss'y Asso: ciation which takes charge of the Dakota Mission Jan'y 1. 1883.

May the Lord reward you for your labors in the past & bless you abundantly in time to come!

With best wishes, Very truly yours,

J. O. Means.

Sec'y.

Rev. Thos. L. Riggs: Dec 28 8—

My dear brother

Your letter of the 25th making application for release from the service of the Board was laid before the Prudential Committee on the 26th inst. & your request was granted. It is hoped you will continue in the Dakota Mission under care of the Am. Missionary Association. We had no thought when the visiting Committee were at Peoria Bottom, & after their return, that any such change was to come. We trust the future will show that the Lord whom we serve had His own purposes to accomplish in these changes. May His blessing continue to rest upon you.!!

Very sincerely yours.

J. O. Means.

Sec'y.

Rev. T. L. Riggs Dec. 28 82

My dear brother..

I inclose, as you requested this morning, a copy of the Dakota estimates for 1882, and the original copy of the Explanatory Notes on Estimates, which there has not been time to have copied & must specially ask ~~that~~ this last original copy be returned to us in due time.

I place in this envelope another letter informing you of the acceptance of & action upon your request for release from the Board, which might have been handed to you when you made me a short call this morning. And also a letter in reply to yours of Dec. 23.

With best wishes, very truly yours.

J. O. Means.

Dec 28. 82

Rev. Thos. L. Riggs,

Dear Brother:-

Your letter of Dec. 23, in reply to inquiries of Dec. 22, whether you had taken the final steps in accordance with the request of the Prudential Committee to secure for the Board the title to the mission premises at Peoria Bottom, has just been received and laid before the Committee. The Com. direct a reply to be sent to you at once to call your attention to some points, the gravity of which perhaps you have not fully considered.

Any one not conversant with the facts might possibly infer from your letter that you considered the mission premises your private property by a clear and honest title: and that when the government warrant was finally in your hands, it was a mere question of choice with you and not a plain moral obligation to turn it over to the Board. Certainly you cannot allow yourself to be placed in such a position as this interpretation of your letter would place you.

Please notice again the facts on record as recited in our letter of the 22nd. instant.

The Board was occupying and had long been occupying with its mission buildings the land which in 1879-1880 was thrown open to preëmption. If you had not been on the ground as its Agent, it would have been easy to have some one else secure the premises for the benefit of the Board. No outsider of course would have been allowed to take out a claim for land which the Board had so long been occupying. At our stations the world over our missionaries secure titles to land, in their own name or otherwise, as the laws of various countries require, and hold the same as Trustees or transfer the title to the Board, according to circumstances. It is an almost every day occurrence. You were at Peoria Bottom as the Agent of the Board, in its service, under its pay and in charge of its interests exclusively; you had no other reason for being there and no other business there, and were living in its buildings which you erected with its money. As a private citizen would you have been there at all? Were you a homesteader "settling" on government land, had you a house of your own to live in and so comply with the legal condition of obtaining a land grant? Were you not acting throughout as the representative of the

Board, to protect its interests in the premises long occupied as a mission and to secure all legal rights?

Your letter of March 18, 1880, stating what you had done and the probable sum which you would need to be reimbursed, the response of the Committee and appropriation of the amount you named, with the notification to you that it would be placed to your credit as soon as the last steps should be taken by you, this all fully recognizes the fact that you were acting in behalf of the Board. In your next letter about the business, Nov. 9, 1880, you stated that you "have not yet proved up, but expect to before long." The inference was that as soon as you had done so, the Com. would be notified. Since then no letter from you has alluded to the subject, and it was not known that you had obtained the legal title. The visiting Committee last Spring reported on their return that they had made inquiries about it, and expressed to the Prudential Committee their surprise at a proposal from you to allow the Board to use its own premises for mission purposes; they recommended that the matter of the land title be acted upon as soon as it could be reached. The consideration of other matters touching the mission first required attention. In view of the transfer of all our property to the Am. Miss. Association, our ownership of the mission premises at Peoria Bottom must not be liable to doubt, and therefore the letter of Dec. 22. was written to you.

It was then said in the transfer any equitable claim you may have for repayment of expenses incurred and not yet repaid will be provided for. Please inform us what you reckon this amount to be.

J. O. Means

Dec. 28 8[illegible]

New York City

[illegible] their own [illegible] released from their connection with the Am. Board as missionaries & assistant missionaries, with the expectation that they will continue in the [illegible] Mission under your care, the following persons, honored & beloved & tenderly commended to your confidence: Rev. S. R. Riggs LL.D. & Mrs Riggs; Rev. A. L. Riggs & Mrs Riggs, Rev. C. L. Hall, Mr & Mrs W. K. Morris, Mr & Mrs Jos. W. Steer, Miss Susan Webb, Miss Harriet B. Ilsley, Miss Louisa M. Irvine, Miss S. B. Pike, Miss E. M. Voorhees. We have also released at their request Rev. Thos. L. Riggs, & Miss Mary C. Collins, who have not definitely decided whether or not to continue in the Mission, & Miss Eda L. Ward (of Fort Berthold) who will retire from the work, at least for awhile, though she writes that — as I asked her — she "will stay as a temporary teacher thro' the school year, if the Association request it."

Rev. Thos. L. Riggs made a short call this

Dec. 28 8.

Rev. Dr M. E. Strieby.
Secy &c. A.M.A. 56 Reade St. New York City.

My dear Dr Strieby.

In accordance with their own request, the Prud. Com. have released from their connection with the Am. Board as missionaries & assistant missionaries, with the expectation that they will continue in the Dakota Mission under your care. The following persons, honored & beloved & tenderly commended to your confidence:–
Rev. S. R. Riggs LL.D. & Mrs Riggs: Rev. A. L. Riggs & Mrs Riggs. Rev. C. L. Hall, Mr & Mrs W. K. Morris, Mr & Mrs Jos. H. Steer, Miss Susan Webb, Miss Harriet B. Ilsley, Miss Louisa M. Irvine, Miss S. B. Pike, Miss E. E. Voorhees.– We have also released at their request Rev. Thos. L. Riggs, & Miss Mary C. Collins, who have not definitely decided whether or not to continue in the Mission, & Miss Eda L. Ward (of Fort Berthold) who will retire from the work, at least for awhile, though she writes today that – as I asked her – she "will stay as a temporary teacher thro' the school year, if the Association request it."

Rev. Thos. L. Riggs made a short call this morning, proposing to see you tomorrow. Please be sure that he receives letters which I forward for him under your care. Some of these he will for you.

I have had a long talk with Dr Ward today. Somewhat very private matter which I should have confided exclusively to you if I had seen you. You will appreciate the reason when you see Dr Ward.

From one of our ablest missionaries, Miss Paddock. (Santee agency) I suppose a letter asking release is on the way: the release will be granted & she most cordially commended to you.

We understand that you take hold Jany 1. Some things needful can be completed in some form afterward.

With best wishes, Sincerely Yours,

J. O. Means

Dec. 28 82

Miss M. A. Shepard
New London. N. H.

My dear Miss Shepard.

I have written & spoken to you about the possibility of transferring the Dakota Mission to the Am. Miss'y Associations. The arrangements are now perfected, & Jan 1st 1883 the Association takes charge of all the Stations, Churches & schools. The Missionaries & assist' missionaries have been released from their connection with the Am. Board, & all but two or three will continue in the Mission under the A.M.A. They, & also the teachers who were not under formal appointment, have been invited by the Association to continue. When your health will allow you to resume work, I am sure the Assoc'n will be very glad to have you do so. When the time comes you would like a word to Dr. Strieby, please let me know & I shall be only too happy to commend you to him.

With best wishes, very truly yours,

J. O. Means

Dec. 23 - 82.

Rev. Dr. S. R. Riggs
Beloit Wis.

My dear Dr. Riggs:-

In a letter from Dr. Strieby he asks whether they are right in their understanding that the American Board has made no transfer of any part of the Dakota mission to any other Society or Board, but that all, on the first of Jan. 1883, is to be handed over to the care of the American Missionary Association. I wrote him that the Prudential Committee had made no proposals to any other Society, and had not asked, or authorized anybody to make any proposals or transfer of any part of the mission to any other Board or Society; but that all the mission with all the stations and all parts thereof which for three years have been under care of the American Board were to be transferred to the American Missionary Association. Dr. Strieby writes that you have addressed to him "a note of inquiry or perhaps of information", to the effect "that as early as June last Dr. Means went to New York and offered to turn over to the Presbyterian Board of Home Missions the whole of the Board's work at Sisseton and Santee Agency. This was communicated to us by Dr. Means and we were asked to approve of it when we met in our annual conference in the middle of September at Flandreau we considered the matter which had been *submitted* to us and voted, First to accept of *the proposition to turn over the six churches* at Sisseton to the Presbyterian Board of Home Missions. Second, also to *accept the proposition to turn over the station and school* at Sisseton to the same Board. I then called together the pastors and elders and other members of the six churches also were there present, and laid the matter before them. They voted unanimously to accept of the change, which I have reported both to Dr. Kendall and also to the Synod of Minnesota. *That is done*. The Board has no property interest in them, and there was no further question to be settled.... As the American Board has a property in the station at Good Will at Sisseton Agency, that must be a matter of further negotiation on their part and could not be decided by our votes".

In reply to the inquiries of Dr. Strieby I sent him a copy of the letter I addressed to you and each of the missionaries with regard to my interview with Dr. Kendall, and added: "We thought it due to the missionaries to let them know what we were thinking of. You will notice that in the letter we do not state that we have made a proposal, but on the contrary that *if proposals shall be made*, this and that will seem proper to us. You will also notice that we do not communicate the matter to the mission as a body, much less ask their approval of it. In fact it was a matter with reference to which the mission as a body had no action to take. Whenever a mission is transferred by our Board, the body which manages the mission has the sole determination of what shall be done. The individual missionaries are communicated with in order that if when the transfer is made, they do not choose to retain their relation to the new body they may say so, and then other provision will be made for them.... The mission seems to have gone forward as though an arrangement had been made, and they were asked to confirm it. They seem to have taken action as though their action of itself was conclusive. I repeat, no arrangement had been made, and no arrangement was communicated to the mission, no action of the mission was invited, and no approval of the mission was requisite in one direction or the other. More than that, by the rules of our Manual, which is in the hands of all our missionaries, "the decision of a mission on questions that may arise in regard to their own proceeding and conduct in which the mission is interested are *subject to the revision* of the Prudential Committee." If the mission had properly taken such action as Dr. Riggs indicates, it would have no force until it was communicated to, and approved by the Prudential Committee. I need not say that has not been done in this case, and if any such action of the mission were submitted to the Prudential Committee, the Committee certainly would not approve of the action... Our relation to the churches at Sisseton has been that they were organized by our missionaries, have been under our fostering care, have been reported regularly to us, ~~have been reported regularly to us~~, have requested and received grants of money, and their pastors have received a regular allowance from our treasury. We have had no communication from them indicating that they wished this to cease. Whatever action has been taken, doubtless it has been unintentionally irregular.... Suppose; as is possible, our whole negotiation with you drops where it is, what would be the position of those churches and the Sisseton station?

These extracts from the communications with Dr. Strieby explain themselves. Allow me to call your attention to one or two things which seem to be misapprehended.

1. No proposals were made to the Presbyterian Home Board in July, and none have been made since. In informal interview ~~with~~ the officials of the Presbyterian Board were sounded to learn how they would receive proposals if they should be made. Dr. Kendall says in his letter of Dec. 6, "I did [illegible] indeed understand that no definite offers had been made."

2. No proposals for a transfer to the Presbyterian Board were communicated to any missionary.

3. Each missionary was informed that the Prudential Committee was considering the propriety of making proposals, but had not done anything positively, and had not

decided what to do.

4. No approval or disapproval of the missionaries was asked for. Their opinion on that general question of course would have due weight. Whether the missionaries would continue in the mission in case a transfer should be proposed and be made, naturally they would be expected to decide for themselves.

5. No communication was ever made to the mission as a body, no proposal was laid before the mission, no action was asked of the mission touching any transfer of the mission or of any station or stations, churches or schools, in whole or in part.

It is not easy to understand how this matter has been so misapprehended. Your letter of August 8 shows your own clear understanding that thus far the whole matter was inchoate, and that nothing definite had been determined upon by the Prudential Committee. You said "as to these churche [of Sisseton] six weeks hence we will be all together, if the Lo will, at our annual conference at Flandreau. That wil be a good time to make the arrangement, _if this matter_ of _negotiations have reached that point_". As nothing was done subsequently or said about it by us, it was evident on the face of it that "the negotiations had not reached the poin for anything to be done as to the Sisseton churches or statio n

These churches have always been Presbyterian, and connected with the Presbytery of Dakota and Synod of

Minnesota, and fully under Presbyterial control. The Board has never had anything to do with their internal economy. Was something done at Flandreau to change their missionary relation to the American Board? Did the native pastors then cease to receive their allowance from the American Board? Have they not been drawing their pay from our treasury since? Has the Presbyterian Board of Home Missions assumed any relation to them? What is this which "is done"?

We presume the Presbyterian Home Board of course would not take up our mission churches without communicating with us upon the subject.

Respectfully yours,
J. O. Means.

Please let me hear from you at once, as the time is so near when the Am. Miss'y Association takes charge. We wish to guard against the possibility of any embarrassment, particularly in view of the relation which you & Mr & Mrs Morris are to sustain to them.

Very truly, J. O. Means

Jany 1. 83

Rev. A. L. Riggs

Santee Agency. Neb.

My dear brother.

On receiving yours of Dec. 20 I wrote to Miss Paxson to learn what she considered her property. It was intended that when a successor to Miss P. entitled to an outfit should be appointed some of the articles of Miss P's outfit should be granted to the successor & charged as her outfit. In fact, no such an one has been appointed. Miss P. claims the articles; they were given to her & put at her disposal; they were not for general use in the mission; & I think you ought to do as she requests. — Will the mother of Ke pay for her outfit? I should not think she ought if it is suff. somewhat. A [illegible] to say a happy new year to you all. Very truly, J. O. Means.

Jany 1. 83

Miss R. A. Paxson. E. Braintree

My dear Miss Paxson.

I thank you for your note of Dec. 30. I have just written Mr Riggs that he shd do as you request. It is true, as you suggest, ~~that~~ that no one has been appointed in your place to whom these articles could be charged as outfit, & that if you do not reclaim them, they will go to general mission use, for which they were not given & are not intended. — But had you not better have the [illegible] sold as well as the stove, & turn over as much of the proceeds as you think proper. Please act your own pleasure. I am sure you will do what is best for the good of the Cause. — A happy new year to you!

Very truly yrs

J. O. Means.

Jany 10 83

Miss M. M. Paddock.
Santee agency. Neb.

My dear Miss Paddock. At the meeting of the Prud. Com. yesterday a special grant was made to you in accordance with your letter of the 2d inst. of $57. — It was most cheerfully made, & kind wishes were expressed for your health.

Also, as you request, your relation to the Am. Board as an Assistant Missionary was terminated, & you are most cordially commended to the Am. Miss. Association, which hereafter has the care of the Dakota Mission. May the Lord bless you abundantly in this great work for the Indians, as the time goes on. It is very trying to be separated from faithful missionaries, but the work goes on, & by our continued prayers we are still fellow laborers.

Please give my kind regards to your associates.

Believe me, Ever, Very truly
Yours J. O. Means.

Jan 19 83.

My dear Dr Thompson.-

The letter which you handed me from Mr Willey calls attention to several statements "not according to facts" in the Report of the Com. which visited the Dakota Mission. The instances:-

1. "Chickamauga is spoken of as the name of a Station of the Am. Board among the Cherokees in the early days of that mission." "Chickamauga is the name of a river & a town on the river, but never of a missionary station":-

In the early notices of the mission "Chickamaugah" constantly occurs. Tracy in his History, for 1818, p. 74, says "It was thought advisable that Mr Evarts should visit the Cherokee mission. He arrived at Chickamaugah in May... During his visit he decided that Chickamaugah should *thenceforth* be called Brainerd."" Its first name was Chickamaugah.

2. "The report speaks of "reservations which are recognized by the U.S. as belonging to the Indians." This mode of expression fails to recognize the fact that the tribes in the Indian Territory own the land within their limits" &c.-

The "mode of expression" is that of the Indian

Department report from which it is taken. The fact which the report wished to call attention to was that lands are recognized by the gov't as belonging to the Indians. What portion of these reservations were divided up among individual Indians, & by what titles individuals held them was not under consideration & was not alluded to here. For brevity's sake, the one essential fact was named & was sufficient for the purpose of showing that the Indians hold vast tracts of land.

3. The report speaks of "the present liabilities of the gov't under treaty engagements" to pay out large sums of money. — The money paid to the five civilized tribes is not by treaty engagement — it is the annual interest on funds invested in the U.S. securities just as anybody invests money & receives the interest annually". —

The Indian Dep. Report's language has been copied in the Committee's report, & the sentence to which objection is taken is that of the Ind. Commissioner. His report states that these U.S. & other stocks belonging to Cherokees, Choctaws &c "are held in trust by the U.S. gov't," & he specifies "the dates of the treaty or law under which the investment was made."

(4) "The report makes the impression that the

are a great burden on the U. S., when the

is ~~that~~ the U. S. always get the best of the b

in all their trades with the ~~the~~ Indians." –

Different impressions may be derived from the report by different persons. The report ende to present the facts correctly for all to judge. fact as to who gets the best of the bargain is [illegible] in the report: no opinion is expressed. seemed called for with the object of stating what extent the Indians were cared for.

5. It is objected that the report speaks of the willingness of the government to do what it can in that appropriates annually the sum of four + quarter million dollars for the Indians".

This is an important fact, certainly, one which many are ignorant. It seemed proper to call attention to it: & inasmuch as inclu in this sum are vast amounts of money called for by treaties but nevertheless granted by the gov't in what seems to be a desire to the Indians, many persons will be likely say, this is one sign ~~that the~~ gov't wishes to the Indians kindly.

6. "Again the report says" The mission to the Choc-taws, in connection with which occurred the first nullification of U. S. laws by Southern States, was closed in 1859" - The Choctaw nation is not a Southern State & not under the laws of the U. S. States & never has been. How this statement shows or intimates why the mission was given up is not apparent".

The statement does not intimate that nullification was the reason for giving up the mission. The statement comprises two parts. (1) The mission to the Choctaws was given up in 1859. (2) It was in connection with the mission to the Choctaws that the first nullification of U. S. laws by Southern States occurred .. these are both true.

When the Choctaw mission was established the tribe was living in part of Georgia bordering on Tenn., & while our missionaries to the Choctaws were in Georgia that State nullified the U. S. laws in matters touching the Indians.

7. Exception is taken to the statement of the Report that the mission to the Cherokees was closed because it was believed these people were substantially Christian & that mission work if continued among them belonged to a home & not to a Foreign missionary

Copy

Society.--

This appears to be true. The Report does not profess to go into the explanation of all the causes which led to the cessation of this mission. The files of the Board show & printed documents state that the fact was that the Indians had reached such a stage that the Board as a For. Missionary Soc. had no more appropriate work among them. Therefore it withdrew. Other reasons there were; they did not negative this reason & it was not necessary, in the very few words which could be used in the report, to go into them.

8. It is objected that the Report leaves the impression that when the Am. Board gave up the Cherokee churches the Presbyterians took them up, whereas some years intervened.

The report simply touches on these points; goes into no details. The point of moment was that the Board for reasons gave the churches up — which was true; & that the Presb's took them up, which was true. It is not asserted that one followed close upon the other, & for the illustration it was immaterial.

I trust these explanations will prove satisfactory to our venerable friend.

Respectfully & truly yours. J. O. Means.

Copy.

Boston. Jan. 10. 1883.

Rev. A. L. Chapin. D.D.

My dear Brother,

At the regular meeting of the Prudential Committee of the American Board yesterday, a letter from Dr. S. R. Riggs of Beloit to Dr. J. O. Means, was read. Dr. Riggs remarks with emphasis: "This must absolutely close the correspondence between you and me." As your name was mentioned in the letter, it seemed fitting that a line should be addressed to yourself, and hence I write at this time.

From the tenor of the letter now referred to, and of various letters written by two or three members of the Dakota Mission within the last eighteen months, there would seem to have been a misapprehension in regard to the agency and the spirit of Secretary Means _ as if suggestions and recommendations made by him were personal rather than in behalf of the Prudential Committee, and as if his correspondence were not, at all times, courteous. To one so well acquainted, as you are, with the official relations and administration at the Rooms of the Board, it may seem superfluous to say that there is harmony between the executive officers and Prudential Committee. During the period above referred to, as well as previously, Dr. Means has been simply the medium of communication with the Mission – all measures having been previously adopted by the deliberate, and – I believe in every instance, unanimous action of the Prudential Committee. The tentative call upon Dr. Kendall last summer belongs in this category. Dr. Means has taken no steps extra-official, or without the usual sanction.

As regards style and tone, it should be stated that his correspondence has been uniformly submitted to the Committee; they have had full and careful cognizance of the same, and it has seemed to them to be characterized throughout by christian courtesy. In regard to several things it has been found necessary to take action and to communicate views which were not gratifying to this or that station or individual in the mission; but in such cases, that which was distasteful, should be attributed to the circumstances and not to the Secretary. In no instance do the Committee regard Dr. Means as having written otherwise than with a spirit of respect and kindness, and in a gentlemanly manner. In every instance, when reading to the Committee communications from Dakota, which to them have not seemed to be characterized by the qualities now mentioned, he has noticeably refrained from even the slightest expression of criticism upon offensive expressions. It is the unanimous judgment of the Committee that Dr. Means conducts the business of his department with marked ability and christian gentlemanliness. In this, I have no doubt that you and all other candid members of the Board, concur, or would concur upon an examination of the whole correspondence and of all the facts involved.

It is by request of the Prudential Committee, and on account of their respect for yourself that I write thus and now. Under common bonds to our divine Master and to the interests of his kingdom,

Very truly,
Your friend,
(signed) A. C. Thompson.

P.S. I enclose a copy of the letter of Dr. Riggs which is referred to. It should be said that the letter of Sec. Means, bearing date, Dec. 23rd was begun at that time; but unavoidably interrupted.

When, some days afterwards, it was resumed and finished, the copyist neglected to make the date correspond.

Please not infer from this enclosed letter, that anything so foreign to the obvious requirements of courtesies and christian intercourse is often received at the Missionary House.

(signed) A. C. T.

Jany 15 83

[illegible] has just been received. I thank you for what [illegible]

No further reply has been sent to your inquiries of Dec 18, because I have been waiting to learn whether Dr Kendall & Dr Riggs would say anything further about the Sisseton Church.

I wrote Dr Kendall Dec. 13. 1882, since when I have had no word from him. I said to him: "I will now add, in view of some of the communications which you quote of some of our missionaries to yourself, ~~that~~ today, the Dakota Mission, every station of it & every part of every station with all the departments which have had their beginning or growth & support under the care of the American Board, remain so still. We have done nothing & have not asked or authorized anything to be done to change the station & mission relations of any

Rev. Dr M. E. Strieby: Jany 15 83

Secy A. M. A. New York City.

My dear brother.. Yours of the 10th has just been received. I thank you for what you say about the Ms. Dictionary. It does not seem to me anything more need be done about it. I will write to Mr Cust that the Ms. cannot be safely forwarded. If he cares enough for it to have a copy made, he will say so.

No further reply has been sent to your inquiries of Dec. 18, because I have been waiting to learn whether Dr Kendall & Dr Riggs would say anything further about the Sisseton Church.

I wrote Dr Kendall Dec. 13. 1882. since when I have had no word from him. I said to him: "I will now add, in view of some of the communications which you quote of some of our missionaries to yourself, ~~that today~~. the Dakota Mission, every station of it & every part of every station with all the departments which have had their beginnings & growth & support under the care of the American Board, remain so still. We have done nothing & have not asked or authorised anything to be done to change the status & mission relations of any churches or schools. The Missionaries & assistants, the teachers, the Indian Pastors all continue to draw their salaries & all continue under our management to the same extent they have been all these years."

In a letter to Dr Riggs, Dec. 23 I asked:- "Was anything done at Flandreau to change their missionary relation [~~that~~ of the Sisseton Churches] to the American Board? Did the native pastors then cease to receive their allowance from the American Board? Have they not been drawing their pay from our treasury since? Has the Presbyterian Board of Home Missions assumed any relation to them? What is this which "is done?""

I received a letter from Dr Riggs in reply, Jan. 18. He does not answer any of these questions: and he says he shall not write again.

We know of no action of the Presb. Home Board touching these churches. Mr Ward, our Treasurer, says he has paid Dr Riggs the salary of the Indian pastors of the 6 Sisseton churches up to Dec. 31. 1882.

Thus, what I wrote to Dr Kendall, as above quoted. Dec. 13, was time Dec. 31. Up to that time, the whole mission as it has been these many years was in our hands: & so we have passed it over to your care.

If anything more needs to be done & can be done by us, of course we shall do it. I do not see any room for misunderstanding with the Presb. Board; certainly on your part: & there is none on ours.

As to the formal, legal transfer of the property Mr Ward was proposing today to communicate with Mr Hubbard, to execute such instruments as may be desired. We have been delayed by an unexpected & most surprising refusal of Rev. Thos S. Riggs to transfer the mission station at Peoria Bottom: which Mr Ward will explain when he executes the legal instruments.

May the Lord bless the officers of the association abundantly in the Indian work & in all the work for which you are responsible.

Very truly yours.

J. O. Means.

Jany 20 83

Rev. Dr M. E. Strieby
Secy &c. A. M. A. New York City

My dear brother

In reply to yours of yesterday, in which you inquire what may seem the wisest thing to do about the Sisseton Churches, I will say that it does not seem to me anything need be done by you. We transfer to the A.M.A. the whole Dakota Mission: Schools & churches as far as they are connected & have been connected with the Board for these years past. I have seen the "special rejoicing of the Local Synod over this acception"; but these churches were already connected with the Synod, so that what the "acception" means is not clear.

We know of no transfer of any part of our Dakota Mission to the Presb. Home Board: we have made none, have authorized none, have acceded to none. If the Sisseton churches have withdrawn from us, we have no official knowledge of it. What the withdrawal was, how it was phrased, we cannot tell. Our specific relation to them was thro' our missionary, Rev. Dr Riggs, who looked after them in our behalf, & paid the salaries of their pastors with in part from our Treasury. Dr Riggs was there, as

the Mission of the Am. Board till Dec. 31. & has drawn from our Treasury pay for the Indian pastors as usual up to Dec. 31 & doubtless has given the Pastors their allowance till Dec. 31, from our Treasury. I wrote to Dr. Riggs & asked what formal act changing the relation of the Sisseton Churches has been passed, if any, & by whom. He does not answer the questions. We have no communication from the Presb. Board indicating that they for any reasons have taken charge of churches wh. were under our care. Already & always, the churches are & have been under Presb. jurisdiction ecclesiastically. The Presb. H. Board can do nothing, so far as I can see,
The churches having always been subject to the Presb. in [illegible], as well as they are
except pay the salaries of the Indian pastors.

I think you should go forward in the presumption that all is as it has been in the Dakota Mission: administer & arrange the work. The churches & pastors are in your field — in the field transferred — so far as there can be a transfer of a mission field from one Society to another. If no pay is asked for the Indian pastors, if their whole pay comes not from your treasury, that does not withdraw the churches from your field & their scholars will be in your schools. Very truly yours,
J. O. Means

I think Dr. Kendall said their Board would not take anything unless they could have the school at Sisseton. My memory as to this is not quite clear, but I think he said so. — We, of course, wish to do anything we can, if matters do not change.

Feb. 17 83

Rev. Dr M. E. Strieby. Secy &c, Am. Miss. Assn
56 Reade St. New York City

My dear brother Strieby. Your letter of the 15th has just been received. I need not assure you that anything we can do in the matter of the Sisseton Churches we are anxious to do. If you have in mind some specific thing which you think we might do, it will be very helpful if you will be kind enough to state it.

Your conversation with Dr Kendall was before Dec. 13. 1882, for that was the date of your letter about this conversation. As soon as I received your letter detailing the conversation I wrote to Dr Kendall, Dec. 15. saying distinctly that "the Dakota Mission, every station, dept & every part of every station with all the departments which have had their beginning & growth & support under the care of the Am. Board remain so still. We have done nothing & have not asked or authorized anything to be done to change the status & mission relations of any churches or schools. The missionaries & assistants, the teachers, the native Pastors all continue to draw their salaries & all continue under our management to the same extent they have been in all these years ~~[illegible]~~. If Dr

Kendall had made his statements to you after this letter had been written to him, the case would seem very different. This letter was in part a reply to what he said to you.

Now, in your announcement of the Indian work it seems to us all here that you should enter the separate churches in the same way as we have always placed them, in the Dakota Mission field [illegible] a part of the Dakota Mission transferred to you. We have always stated that, of the Dakota Mission churches, one was ecclesiastically connected with the Congregational Association of Dakota [illegible] to the same, & seven are ecclesiastically connected with the Dakota Presbytery, reporting to [illegible] [illegible] in it. This statement it seems proper for us to make, & it ought to allay & prevent any denominational feeling. Your authority for so reporting these churches is the Am. Board, which has transferred the missionary field to your care. If then any body or any society raises questions, they should alone be referred to us. It is not for you or for us to answer any questions; we shall be [illegible] to do so. It does not seem necessary for you [illegible] the article [illegible] [illegible] with the Am. Board. — I forward a [illegible] of the [illegible] Mission [illegible] in [illegible]. — If you think

There is some [illegible] of treating this matter. — please stay so [illegible].

I am not sure that I have written you of another matter of interest & advantage to the cooperation in the Indian work. We have the disposal of a fund in Scotland devoted to the education of Indians. There is a good deal of formality in the transaction of the business, but the substantial fact is that about £140. or some $700. per annum can be devoted to the education of Indian youth at Moore's Charity School – Dartmouth College. It is restricted to this College, & the Presd't & Trustees of Dartmouth College must have charge of the Students. There are ~~now~~ two students beneficiaries of the fund: one at the academy – Meriden ~~[illegible]~~, I think – fitting for college. This fund we shall place at your disposal: in some way arrange that you have charge of the expenditure. We were planning to do more with it than has been done, & shall be glad to make it more serviceable through ~~the~~ cooperation in the Indian work. The Ex. Officers of the Board are the Trustees.

With best wishes. Most sincerely yo.

J. O. Means.

March 3 83

Rev. Dr M. E. Strieby, Secy &c.
56 Reade St. New York City

My dear brother. — As you saw, yours of Feb. 20. was too late for the proposed note in "The Herald" of March, & as Dr Plumb was to see you, I deferred answering your note till his return. — I was just writing to you, to propose a form for a paragraph in the next "Herald" when your letter of yesterday was laid on my desk.

One difficulty in making a suitable statement is our absolute ignorance of what has been done in regard to the different churches. We only know that some action has been taken by them in the direction of the Presb. Home Bd. Whether [illegible] the action itself, or that all be [illegible], a definite action has been taken, we do not know. The churches have not communicated directly with us. The little we know was told us by Dr Riggs, but in a very general way. We wrote & asked him to be kind enough to let us know what steps if any were taken. He does not inform us. As to the acceptance of these Churches by the Presb. Home Board, we we are still more in the dark. We cannot know from any source that the Presb. Board had taken this action. We did not think they had. In stating in the proposed paragraph ~~that~~ we are informed that they have, you are our informant & unless you are quite certain the words in brackets below had better be omitted.

This by way of explanation: To say any thing of the day about may not be needed if said may provoke controversy. we propose the following. Consider & if it does not wholly meet your wishes, frankly suggest improvements.

" In the "Herald" for March the formal announcement was made of the transfer of the whole Dakota Mission to the Am. Miss. Association. We are now informed, indirectly, that the mission Churches connected with the Sisseton Station transferred themselves, last autumn, to the care of the Presb. Board of Home Missions [& were accepted by this Board.] Whatever change of this kind has taken place has been without consultation with, or knowledge or approbation of, the Prudential

Com. of the Am. Board, which intended to transfer January 1. 1883, the mission Churches connected with the Sisseton [illegible] as well as all the others to the care of the A. M. Association. The usual grant for these Sisseton Churches was drawn from the treasury of the Am. Board up to January 1. 1883, when the mission was duly transferred to the A. M. Association. | In case it prove true that the Sisseton Churches have come under care of the Presb. Home Board, the Executive Committee of the A. M. Association generously prefer that matters be left as they are rather than that there be any controversy upon the subject."

If you will vouch for the fact, the words in brackets [ ] might well stand.

With best wishes

Very truly yo.

J. O. Means.

March 7. 83

Rev. Dr M. E. Strieby, Secy &c

56 Reade St. New York City.

My dear Dr Strieby. I am very sorry that we should seem to be at cross purposes in our communications touching the Sisseton Churches. The Ex. Officers consulted together & arranged such a Statement as we thought would particularly meet your wishes. That was our sole intent. It must certainly be infelicitous, for it seems to be just what you did not want. That last sentence which you specially dislike, we rather prided ourselves upon, as likely to be specially agreeable to you. I will just add that Dr Alden informs me that he showed Dr W. H. Ward the letter, in the letter book, & that Dr W. thought it just met the case, particularly the last sentence. Our meaning in the last sentence was that the A.M.A. if the Sisseton Churches were under care of the Presb. Home Board, did not wish the Am. Board to have a controversy over them with the Presb. Board, but accepted the situation, generously. We thought we were accepting your proposed note, simply changing phrases to accord with the facts as known to us.

However, now, let all this go.

The announcement you propose to make in the April Missionary seems to us perfectly proper. It seems to cover the necessities of the case. As our sole object in an additional statement in the Herald was to meet your wishes, & as there is not room now to get back from you another statement which might prove mutually satisfactory, there will be no statement in the next Herald. The copy is now partly in the printer's hands. — Our Com. think your statement will suffice. If in correspondence yet anything comes from the Presb. Home Board, then something may be needed from us.

We might have printed in the April Herald, I will say, the statement as sent to you, omitting the last sentence. But as we looked it over we were uncertain whether this would quite meet your wishes, & so we leave all out. It is now too late to make another statement, as I have said.

Very much regretting these infelicities,

Sincerely yours, J. O. Means.

March 10 83

Rev. Dr M. E. Strieby. Secy &c.
56 Reade St. New York City.
My dear Dr Strieby:

Intelligence has just come from Meriden Academy of a revival among the students. Among the cases of hopeful conversion are named two Indians, Alberty & Skelton. & among those whose spiritual experience is distinct is Eastman, for whom there has been a good deal of solicitude. He is a member of the Church at Santee I think. These Indians are all supported from the Scottish fund, of which I wrote to you. You will be glad to have this intelligence at once. These boys are properly now under your care — though I do not know as there is anything special to be done for them.

Very truly Yours
J. O. Means.

I am sorry I did not think in season to suggest that you learn from Revd Bartlett about the scholars & to enter their names & mention the facts about them as receiving instruction, for the April Missionary.
M.

Nov 12th 83

Rev. M. E. Strieby D.D.
Sec. A. M. A.
*56 Reade St. N. Y.

Dear Brother:

Thanks for your letter of the 9th and for the Abstract of your report, which clearly shows that the mistake I called your attention to was by the "Congregationalist" and not in your report. Am very glad to find it so. I find, however, in the "Abstract" you send, another matter which I am constrained to call your attention to. In one place it ~~is said that the~~ refers to "Dakota mission transferred from the American Board to the A. M. A. except the six churches of the Sisseton Agency which had been transferred to the Home Mission Board of the Presbyterian General Assembly." The other extract says; "As the six churches of the Sisseton Agency had already been transferred to the Home Mission Board of the Presbyterian church, etc.

If you recall the correspondence between yourself and Dr. Means you will readily see that these phraseologies do not present the case aright.

as we look upon it here. I need not go into the matter of the misunderstanding that seems to have existed on the part of the Presbyterian Home Board; suffice it to say that we affirm now, as heretofore, that no transfer was ever made by our Board of any churches to any body except the A.M.A., and so Dr. Means' letters to the Dakota missionaries and to yourself continually affirm.

Dr. Means wrote you on Feb. 11th 1883. that he had written to Dr. Kendall (Dec 15th 1882) saying "The Dakota mission, every station of it, and every part of every station, with all the departments which have had their beginning and support under the care of the American Board remain so still. We have done nothing, and have not asked or authorized anything to be done to change the status and mission relations of any churches or schools. The missionaries and assistants, the teachers, the Indian pastors, all continue to draw their salaries, and will continue under our management to the same extent as they have been in all these years"

On January 20th Dr. Means wrote you

"We know of no transfer of any part of the Dakota field to the Presbyterian Home Board. We have made none, have authorized none, have acceded to none. If the Sisseton churches have withdrawn from us, we have no official notice of it. What the withdrawal was; how it was phrased(?) we cannot tell"

This was the state of the case in January last. Dr. Means is disabled and I cannot ask him if he knows anything since this. We who are here now know nothing about any transfer to the Home Board. If anything of the kind has been done it has been done by the churches there, and not by us. It seems therefore that if you are to refer to this transfer in your printed report it should be understood as the action of the churches and not the action of the American Board. The statement in your "Abstract" seems to directly imply that the transfer was made by us. If these churches have separated themselves from the Dakota mission since the American Board has ceased caring for them, we can well understand how you would desire to bring out that fact in your report, and affirm that they had never come under your control. But it would seem that you might do this, simply stating that they had withdrawn from the mission, and had transferred themselves to the care of another Board.

Very truly yours

E. E. Strong.